

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Paralee Smith appointed as director of planning

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Town Manager Stuart Beckley introduced Paralee “Para” Smith to the Selectboard as his appointment for Director of Planning and Community Development.

“She comes to Ware with several years of planning experience,” Beckley said at the Oct. 3 meeting. “She’s been through two rounds of interviews...everyone has been impressed.”

Smith said she is “very excited” for the opportunity.

The Selectboard approved Smith’s appointment and she will start on Oct. 16.

Rail trail road crossings

Selectboard member Jack Cascio said a resident voiced concern about traffic hazards at the Gibbs Crossing Mass Central Rail Trail entrance.

He said he went to the trail, and he noticed that visibility is limited for motorists coming from the direction of Lowe’s.

Cascio suggested larger signs, a brightly painted crosswalk, or a lit caution sign with flashing lights, to warn drivers. Permission would need to be granted by the owners of the property.

Police Chief Shawn Crevier suggested adding crosswalks in places the trail crosses the road.

Proclamation

Cascio said he wrote a proclamation against a bill HD.4420.

He said in speaking with members of the Police Department and others in the community, the bill would “handcuff” off-duty police officers and in his opinion, is a violation of Second Amendment rights.

Cascio read his proclamation which states in part:

“The Ware Board of Selectmen wishes to go on record, voicing its opposition to Massachusetts legislation HD.4420...the concerns include ‘punishing law abiding citizens by restricting where licensed holders can carry, rather than addressing the issue of these criminals being free on the streets, and lenient sentencing in the court system’...we wish to stand by, and up, for our men and women of law enforcement, our hunters, sportsmen and women, and those citizens lawfully enjoying their Second Amendment rights.”

Cascio moved to have the Selectboard go on record with the proclamation, voicing their opposition against HD.4420.

Selectboard Nancy Talbot said she has not read the full bill, and asked to abstain from the vote.

The Selectboard tabled a vote and Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz said they will add discussion of the proclamation at the Selectboard’s next meeting.

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 3



Music at Trinity benefits Dismas House and Farm

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Trinity Episcopal Church continued their monthly music series this past Sunday, taking an offering during the free concert in support of a local organization.

Rev. Randy Wilburn said part of the Church’s mission has developed into Music at Trinity, as a way to give back, while bringing the community together through song. The Church underwrites

the concerts, and the mission receives all donations received during the offering.

“Today, the mission is for Dismas House and Farm,” Wilburn said.

This month’s concert featured the band, Ask Me Now, led by Ware native Frances Rahaim.

Ask Me Now was formed in 2018 as a conduit for performing much loved favorites from greats like Fats Waller, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy

Please see **MUSIC**, page 7

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Ask Me Now, led by Ware native Frances Rahaim, performed a free concert at Trinity Episcopal Church this past Sunday, as part of its Music at Trinity mission. This concert benefited Dismas House and Farm.

Town receives \$400,000 grant for Otis St. project

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARREN – Town Administrator James Ferrera thanked Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and state officials for their help in securing a \$400,000 Rural and Small Town Development grant for the Otis Street project.

“This is an excellent start for continuing on with Prospect, Richardson, School, Otis Street, finishing that neighborhood up there,” Ferrera said at the Board of Selectmen’s Sept. 28 meeting. “This was very important.”

Dufresne said grants make it possible for the town to make necessary repairs to road ways.

“The town really depends on this,” he said.

Dog hearing continued

The Board of Selectmen held a nuisance dog hearing for a dog that lives at 777 Coy Hill Road, after the Animal Control Officer received several complaints.

Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne said the complaints include leaving the yard, jumping on vehicles and scratching them and being in the road.

The dog owner attended the hearing, and asked that the Board postpone the hearing, since she was not properly notified about the hearing.

“I have not been provided

with any documentation, nothing was included and this [a sheet of paper] was sent to the improper address,” she said.

The dog owner said without adequate notice, she has no way to either represent herself, get legal representation or bring witnesses. She also requested copies of all documents related to the complaints.

The hearing was continued to Thursday, Oct. 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Town Administrator’s report

Ferrera presented updated drafts of programing for town offices and police headquarters from Tecton Architects, reflecting recommendations made by Police, Fire and the Board of Selectmen.

The gross facility area for town offices has been reduced to 15,430 square feet from almost 19,000. Police headquarters have also been reduced, down to 9,877 square feet from about 13,000.

Ferrera said the police headquarters now includes the MILO (Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives) training system, rather than having it in the municipal building.

He said the next phase would include a conceptual design of the complex.

Ferrera said the Veterans Agent position has been posted and resumes and cover letters will be accepted until Oct .12. Current

Please see **WARREN**, page 3

WBCA’s gathering features axe throwing tournament

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – The Ware Business & Civic Association enjoyed a fall gathering at the town’s American Legion Hall.

The gathering featured an axe throwing tournament where local businesses could put in a three-person team and compete against one another. The display for axe throwing was provided by Crazy Axes.

A coach was present while participants got a chance to practice prior to the tournament.

In addition to the gathering, Farmer Matt of New Braintree provided his famous cheeseburgers, potato salad, coleslaw, chips and drinks for those in attendance.

The axe throwing tournament

was won by the team representing Moulton Insurance Agency Incorporated. The team stole the show when they edged out last year’s winners Pennington Painting.

During the matchup, Brittini Robidoux of Moulton Insurance was consistent in her round of throws by starting off with back-to-back bullseyes to lead the team to victory.

Katie Gagner of Moulton Insurance was proud of her team and enjoyed the event.

“It was a great event from the WBCA. Glad to be a member and thank you to Dan Flynn for a great event,” said Gagner.

More fun events are ahead for the Ware Business & Civic Association. For more information, visit warebca.org



Dustin Pennington of Pennington Painting on the approach trying to win for the second year in a row.



The winning team of the axe throwing tournament was Moulton Insurance, featuring from left to right, Crystal Daniels, Brittini Robidoux and Katie Gagner.

Moulton Insurance team declared the winners by last year’s winner Dustin Pennington, left, and Dan Flynn, right.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Technology department faces capital projects

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Technology Director Michael Brown updated the School Committee about recent technology upgrades in the district, as well as capital needs for the schools.

At the Sept. 27 meeting, Brown said that all of the copy machines have been replaced, and older printers have been rotated out.

He said cameras have been installed at the new playground at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School.

“It gives visibility back there that we’ve never had before,” Brown said.

Brown said the sound systems at the SMK gym, High School gym, Middle School cafeteria and the press box have all been upgraded.

Brown said one of his goals is to implement an inventory/real ticket system. He said the priority is inventorying Chromebooks and keeping track of repairs and costs.

Brown said he got pricing for upgrades to the security camera system and the phone system.

Please see **SCHOOLS**, page 5

Peter Durant
State Senate

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

PROTECTING OUR WALLETS

- ✓ Earned a perfect voting record of protecting taxpayers from tax increases
- ✓ Led the fight to suspend the gas tax
- ✓ 100% rating in standing up for local small businesses

STOPPING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

- ✓ Only candidate to vote against licenses for illegal immigrants
- ✓ Fought against taxpayer funded benefits for illegals
- ✓ Filed legislation to amend the Right to Settle law to require legal residency

PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS

- ✓ Earned a perfect rating from the NRA
- ✓ Leading the fight against H.4420 – the unconstitutional gun grab

GETTING THE JOB DONE FOR US

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT PETER DURANT FOR STATE SENATE

Inside this edition:

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COMMUNITY

Public access plan finalized for watershed **Page 6**

SPORTS

Girls volleyball defeats Chicopee **Page 9**



SCHOOL

Pathfinder hosts 30th car show **Page 15**

Ware Senior Center events

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, located at 1 Robbins Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The thrift store is open each of those days from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations to the store are only accepted by Sue LaBarge, who can be reached by calling 413-544-1574.

- ACTIVITIES**
Monday, Oct. 9
Closed for Columbus Day
- Tuesday, Oct. 10**
- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 - 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking (\$3 per class; registration starts at 5 p.m.)
 - 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

- Wednesday, Oct. 11**
- 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Region DPH Nurse office hours
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch

- Thursday, Oct. 12**
- 9 a.m. New Senior Walking Club
 - Meet at Senior Center and wear comfortable footwear. Bringing water, sunscreen, bug spray and energy snack are suggested.
 - 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 - 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
 - 10 a.m. Line Dancing
 - 10 a.m. Scat

- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 2:30 p.m. Art Class
- Friday, Oct. 13**
- 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mobile Dental Hygiene Services of Western Mass (call 413-967-9645 for an appointment)
 - 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
 - 1:30-3:30 p.m. Chair Massage (available by appointment only, call 413-967-9645; \$5 for 10 minutes)
 - 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES DINE IN
All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

Reservations required by calling 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put you name on the lunch list.

- Monday, Oct. 9**
Closed for Columbus Day
- Tuesday, Oct. 10**
Cold Cut Sandwich, Potato Chips, Mandarin Orange Salad, Dessert of the Day
- Wednesday, Oct. 11**
Turkey Dinner with Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Dessert of the Day
- Thursday, Oct. 12**
Brunch
French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Sausages, Dessert of the Day

- Friday, Oct. 13**
Baked Fish, Au Gratin Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Lace up for Station Loop Ramble run/walk Oct. 15

NEW BRAINTRREE – East Quabbin Land Trust is getting ready to host its 12th annual Station Loop Ramble on Sunday, Oct. 15 on the Mass Central Rail Trail. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 9:30 a.m. All events incorporate part of the MCRT and start at the intersection of West and Hardwick roads, at the site of the former New Braintree Train Station. Race routes travel past scenic farmland, through deep woods, and skirt the Ware River. The 5-mile Classic at 10 a.m. is a hilly road and trail

race with a flat fast finish on the Mass Central Rail Trail. The Kid's One Mile at 9:30 a.m. and 5K Run/Walk at 10:05 a.m. are entirely on a flat course. Adults must accompany children running this course. Each mile is marked, and mid-run water stop provided. Post race refreshments, games, entertainment, free raffles for all entrants, and much more. Entry fees for online early birds (through Oct. 14) are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children (ages 10 and under); day-of registration on Oct. 15 is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children; seniors, veter-

ans and first responders are \$20; and family registration is \$35. For more information or to register, visit eqlt.org and click on "Station Loop Ramble."



ACCURACY WATCH

The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

Are You Old News?

Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

File Photo
Last week's photo from 1991 showed Persian Gulf U.S. Air Force pilot John Bernier, right, holding his son Patrick and talking with his father, Ray Bernier. John Bernier was the aircraft commander of a B-52 bomber.

If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to pouimette@turley.com.

Jeff Belanger talks 'Ghosts and Legends' Oct. 12

WARREN – Prepare to explore the unexplained with a multi-media experience presented by Jeff Belanger, a noted storyteller and researcher of lore and legends, at the Warren Senior Center, 2252 Main St., West Warren on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Warren Public Library. Belanger is the host, writer, and producer of the "New England Legends" series on PBS and is the author of over a dozen books. He also hosts the popular "New England Legends" weekly podcast. This event is free. Please call the library at 413-436-7690 to register or email warrenpubliclibrary@hotmail.com.



Wine Tasting on Oct. 14 benefits library friend's group

WARE – The Friends of the Ware Library (Young Men's Library Association) will be hosting a Wine Tasting presentation at It's Wine O'clock, 164 D West St., on Saturday, Oct. 14, between the hours of 1-6 p.m. The staff of It's Wine

O'clock will be giving a presentation about the featured wines, and the Friends will receive a percentage of the sales to help with programming at the Ware Library. Please stop in anytime during the hours of the free wine tasting, and learn about

some wine from the very knowledgeable staff. The Friends appreciates the staff of It's Wine O'clock for partnering with them. This event is a great way to showcase the wines at It's Wine O'clock and help support the Library.

Fall/Halloween/Christmas craft fair is Oct. 7

WARE – The United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., is having a fall/Halloween/Christmas craft fair on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Many different items have been

lovingly made by church members and span several seasons of decorating and gifting. There will be other crafters selling their wares as well. Additional tables are still available for rent. Anyone interested can

call the church office at 413-967-9981 for more information. There will also be a cookie sale and a light luncheon of homemade soup and sandwiches, along with dessert and drink.

Ware River News
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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Fall/Halloween/Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday Oct. 7, 2023
10AM - 3PM
United Church of Ware
49 Church Street
Ware, MA 01082

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon 11:30AM - 1PM

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Stuffed Animals
Fairy Houses
Garden Decor
Table Decorations
Christmas Decorations

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USDA INSP. FROZEN TWIN PAK PORK SPARE RIBS..... \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS \$7.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG..... \$1.89 ea
USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI PEPPER JACK CHEESE..... \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF 80% LEAN GROUND FRESH DAILY \$3.99 7 LB BAG	USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS TRAY PAK CHICKEN TENDERLOINS... \$1.99 lb
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Outreach event promotes networking and self-care

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN – The Senior Center held an Outreach Networking and Self-Care event to support outreach care coordinators and social workers.

The event held on Sept. 28 provided opportunities for refreshment, networking and connection ahead of open enrollment and fuel assistance during the fall season.

The vendors included Bluebird Estates, Louis & Clark Medical Supply, Home Care Hands Home Care & Staffing, Assisted Living Locators, Brookhaven Hospice and Capuano Care.

Additionally, self-care activities including chair massages, reiki healing sessions, tarot card readings and meditation.

Kimberly O'Connor, community liaison at Brookhaven Hospice, explained she got into hospice care when she experienced it with her family and saw the impact it had.

"It really makes a big difference not only for the patient who's receiving services but the family as well," O'Connor said.

Besides networking, O'Connor hopes to raise awareness about hospice care services while giving back to the community, including how hospice is a Medicare benefit seniors "are entitled to have."

"It just gives you an opportunity, really, to be able to share that message with a group of people, like-minded community folks who are focusing on seniors in the community," O'Connor said.

Public Health Nurse Ashley Boudreau, who's part of the Public Health District serving the towns of Hampden, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow and Monson, said the event was great and appreciated the opportunity to meet the organizations that are out there in the community.

Boudreau stressed the senior center holding this event is "wildly important."

"Especially during the pandemic, people felt so alienated from



Turley Photo by Kristin Rivers

Debbie Johnson, outreach coordinator at Ludlow Senior Center, Ann Andras, outreach coordinator at South Hadley Senior Center, Janine Leis, social services coordinator at Ware Senior Center, Wendy Cowles, outreach coordinator at Hampden Senior Center, Brenda Labbe, community outreach director at Greater Springfield Senior Services and Danell Tavela, social services director at the East Longmeadow Council on Aging, smile for a group photo during the Outreach Networking and Self-Care event at Hampden Senior Center.

everyone that having these events is incredibly important for the camaraderie, for just like this. For seeing the different things that they have in the community that can be helpful to them that they might not know about," Boudreau said.

Angie Thornton, marketing director for HomeCare Hands 24/7 Care at Home & Staffing, also stressed raising awareness, sharing several organizations are part of the Community Care Warriors, an alliance to support one another and seniors.

"So just collaborating and helping each other, bringing each other resources, supporting each other," Thornton said. "And then we collaborate and do things like this: supporting each other, putting on events like this and we come out and we support each other this

way. There's just that common goal of being there and being part of a community to give back to the community."

Debbie Johnson, outreach coordinator for the Ludlow Senior Center, said the event helps her connect with fellow outreach coordinators in surrounding communities.

She enjoyed the opportunity to network and get new information.

"I learned a few things about the different vendors that are here that I didn't know in the past and even some of the networking that we were unsure of, a lot of my questions got answered," Johnson said. "So I'm very happy I came tonight."

Wendy Cowles, the senior center's outreach coordinator, said after last year's event, people came

to her saying they got great information and used business cards from those they connected with.

Cowles added, "It's a nice feeling to see everyone come together."

"Like I said, it takes a village and we're all in it together and support each other, which, you know, just makes your job a whole lot easier," Cowles said.

Johnson wants the community to know the town of Hampden has a great senior center, encouraging residents to visit.

"They have a wealth of information that they can hand out to the seniors of Hampden and it would be great if they could all just participate and ask questions. It's a great informationally referral place and it's also a great socialization place for Hampden," Johnson said.

Ware, Warren named One Stop for Growth grant awardees

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Ways & Means Committee) announced that Ware and Warren have been selected as recipients of the Fiscal Year 2024 Community One Stop for Growth Grant Awards.

Ware will receive \$95,000 for the Ware Millyard Re-Development Plan through the Community One Stop grant program. This funding will be used to revitalize the Ware Millyard by repairing infrastructure and utilizing economic and housing potential in the area.

Warren will receive \$400,000 for the Otis Street Improvement Project through the grant program. OSIP will span from the intersection of Otis Street and Quaboag Street to the intersection of Otis Street and School Street.

The project is focused on infrastructure improvements including water main replacement, a storm drainage system, as well as road-

way and sidewalk repairs.

"The Community One Stop for Growth program reflects Ware and Warren's commitment to ensuring a prosperous future. This funding provides support for restoration and development that will enhance the quality of life and promote economic growth in our communities. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact these projects will have," Smola said in a press release.

Administered by the Massachusetts Department of Community and Economic Development, the Community One Stop for Growth Grant Awards program recognizes municipalities that have demonstrated innovation and commitment to enhancing the quality of life for their residents. The One Stop for Growth program aims to empower municipalities to achieve their economic development goals while fostering community engagement.

4th annual Steven Hawk Cars & Coffee show

WARE – The 4th annual Steven Hawk Cars & Coffee car show will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at McDonald's, 117 West St.

There will be no entry fee or donations accepted. Trophies will be awarded.

The rain date is Sunday, Oct. 15.

WARREN from page 1

Veterans Agent Gary Lapine is retiring in November.

He said they have selected a candidate for the Planning and Building Department secretary position, and will begin onboarding.

Ferrera said the town received several bids for road materials, but none for sludge removal. He said they will have to go out to bid again for sludge removal.

The Board of Health has identified a candidate to be the town's Health Agent, filling a position that has been vacant for some time.

Ferrera said the concrete steps off the back of the sewer building will be replaced by a company from North Brookfield.

"We're using a line of money that has been sitting there for some time to get the project done," he said.

Retiree health benefits rates

Ferrera said every year, the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association comes out with new rates for town retiree health benefits, and will increase in 2024 by 2.76% over current rates. This is about an \$11 a month increase over the current rate, he said.

Some of that increase is paid for by the town, he said.

Ferrera said the town budgeted for up to a 6% increase, and this will keep them well under budget.

Rental fee waiver

The Board approved a request from Senior Center Director Sharon Meli to waive the facility's \$150 rental fee, in order to hold a memorial service for long-time resident and former town employee, Pete Hastings.

Ferrera said the Council on Aging has secured a certificate of liability coverage.

"Pete Hastings has been a real-

ly important member of our community for a very long time, and he's done a lot for our community," Dufresne said.

Door security quote

Ferrera said he received a firm quote from NSA Commercial Door and Hardware to replace pins and hinges on the doors at the Shepard Municipal Building in the amount of \$1,717.56, which will also include a door in his office that is having lock issues.

The first estimate from NSA Commercial Door and Hardware put the costs around \$3,000. The Shepard Municipal Building expense account has sufficient funds to cover this expense.

The doors will be outfitted with nonremovable, security pins and hinges.

Senior Center project

Ferrera said the escrow agreement with 360 Building and Remodeling for construction at the Senior Center has been received, but it has not been reviewed by town counsel yet.

The Board accepted the agreement pending town counsel review.

Bathroom updates

Dufresne said he received a request from the Town Clerk to install a bathroom downstairs.

He said there is plumbing down there, and they could install a handicapped accessible, unisex bathroom to use during events or polling.

"It would make sense to have one down there," Dufresne said, rather than use the chair lift or walking up the stairs.

He said a sink was requested for the staff break room in the building as well. He said the shower stall that is currently in the break room could be removed, and a sink could be installed.

WARE BOS from page 1

Water/wastewater assets update

Beckley said the public information sessions regarding the possible sale of the town's water and wastewater assets are being planned for October, November and December.

Coy Hill beavers

Beckley said trapping has reduced the number of beavers on top of Coy Hill, and notches have been added to the dams to reduce water levels.

"It has reduced the amount of water, by estimate, by about half," he said.

With Friday night's excessive rainfall, water did go over Quarry Street, but the level dropped quickly.

"The trapping is being very successful," he said.

Insurance claims

Beckley said an insurance adjuster inspected the restrooms at Grenville Park, after a tree fell on the roof. He said the town would be best served to replace the restroom, given the damage.

He said there is mold in the back room behind the Assessor's office and there is also rain damage in the Planning Department.

Beckley said he has received

quotes for both Town Hall issues, and is waiting for insurance to move forward with both

ReSource Waste hearings

Beckley said the Board of Health's hearing regarding the proposed expansion of ReSource Waste was held over two nights before being closed. He said the Board of Health will now have 45 days to make a decision regarding the proposal.

Stormwater runoff

A resident from Coffey Hill Road had brought stormwater runoff complaints to the Selectboard's attention previously.

Beckley said the highway supervisor put in a request for a vacuum truck to clear the large tanks on either side of the road, to improve drainage and prevent flooding of the resident's property. He said several catch basins in town will also be cleared by the vacuum truck.

Employee award/recognition

Cascio said he would like to recognize exemplary town employees for going "above and beyond" their responsibilities.

Kusnierz agreed it was a good idea and would help boost morale. He said they could create a year-to-year excellence system, using staff evaluations.

"That's definitely something

that we should look into," Kusnierz said.

Halloween Drive-thru event

The Selectboard approved the Ware Knights of Columbus' Halloween in the Park drive-thru event on Friday, Oct. 27 from 5-8 p.m. at Grenville Park.

Public hearing

A public hearing on the new Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, common victualer and entertainment licenses for Bellies, located at the former Hanna Devine's restaurant, will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 7:05 p.m.

250th U.S. Anniversary Celebration Committee

Robert Krasnecky was appointed as the sixth member of the 250th U.S. Anniversary Celebration Committee. Kusnierz said there is one more seat to fill on the Committee.

Migrants

Beckley said the National Guard didn't think the Armory building was suitable to house migrants, but he said discussion with department

heads and state agencies will be had in order for them to be prepared, especially with regards to the school district's needs in education migrant children that may come in to the town.

AED discussion

Crevier asked if discussion regarding outfitting police cruisers with AEDs could be had in executive session or with two members of the Selectboard and the Police Commission.

He said he believes it should be a private discussion.

Yard waste drop-off

The next yard waste drop-off at Robbins Road will be held Saturday, Oct. 21. Drop-offs will be held weekly in November.

Tax title funds

Beckley said tax title funds available to the Treasurer's office were used to clear a fire site on Third Avenue and a town acquired property on James Road.

"Those are great improvements to have," he said, with most of the buildings and trash removed.

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viewpoints



Taxpayer asks about federal taxation of Social Security benefits

Dear Rusty

Why are my Social Security benefits being taxed at all? The Social Security FICA payroll taxes taken out of my paycheck while I was working were paid with taxable income.

Signed Disgruntled Taxpayer

Dear Disgruntled Taxpayer

Many Americans share your belief that federal taxation of Social Security benefits is unfair because we pay into the program through payroll taxes on our taxable earnings. Unfortunately, Congress took a different view in 1983 when taxation of Social Security benefits was first enacted at a time Social Security was having financial issues.

Congressional logic back then was that a beneficiary only personally pays 50% of the Social Security contributions made, the other half is paid by the employer, so, since your Social Security entitlement was only half paid for by you and the other half by your employer, the portion of your benefit attributable to your employer's contributions should be taxable. So, it's that other half, the portion of your benefit which resulted from employer contributions, which the 1983 Congress decided should be taxed.

Starting in 1984, if a beneficiary's overall annual income from all sources exceeded \$25,000 for a single filer or \$32,000 for those filing married-jointly, half of that person's Social Security benefits became part of their income taxable by the IRS.

That was how it worked until 1993 when a new and different Congress added another threshold which, if exceeded, resulted in up to 85% of Social Security benefits received during the tax year becoming taxable.

The logic used for the 1993 law was that beneficiaries, on average, would only personally pay for about 15% of the lifetime benefits they would eventually receive, leading that Congress to conclude that if your combined income from all sources exceeded the higher threshold, \$34,000 for single filers and \$44,000 for those filing married/jointly, up to 85% of your benefits should be taxable.

Please understand that I'm not defending nor endorsing those historical Congressional views, but I have researched why Social Security benefits are taxable at all and the above is what I've learned from that research.

For information, the Association of Mature American Citizens has long advocated for eliminating federal taxation of Social Security benefits or, at the very least, raising the thresholds at which benefits become taxable. The income thresholds for taxing Social Security benefits were established in 1983 and 1993, but those thresholds have never been adjusted for inflation.

When taxation of Social Security started in 1984, less than 10% of beneficiaries paid income tax on their benefits, whereas today that percentage is over 50% and growing.

If you want to add your voice to those who oppose federal taxation of Social Security benefits, you may wish to contact your Congressional Representative to do so. It is worth noting that eleven U.S. states, to varying degrees, also levy income tax on Social Security benefits.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for informational purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



What I know about Jumping Worms

I recently saw a comment on social media about a woman that had so many night crawlers in her yard she thought she'd go into the fishing bait business.

I question if she really had night crawlers or the Jumping, Dancing or Snake Worm.

This worm has been getting a lot of attention lately and for good reason. It is seemingly showing up everywhere!

Amyntas species are the worms that are a cause of concern. The common name of

Jumping, Dancing or Snake Worm is logical due to the fact that these worms thrash about when disturbed; some would even call it violent slithering, hence the snake connotation.

But worms are a good thing, yes? Not in this case.

This particular type of worm differs from the European earthworms that we like to see in our garden, happily aerating the soil and leaving behind nutrient rich worm castings.

Invasive worms live in the first few inches of soil only and devour organic matter at an alarming rate, leaving behind large castings that look like coffee grounds or gravel but are devoid of nutrients and literally soil altering.

If you think about your tomato or marigold plant and the depth of their roots: what organic matter is left for the plant if the worm eats it all?

Likewise, what is left for other, less aggressive worms. Not much.

This time of year, Jumping Worms are easily identified. First and foremost, look for their crazy movements.

If you suspect you have them, pick one up

and examine the ring (clitellum). If it is about one-third of the way down from the worm's head, is smooth, whitish and goes all the way around the body of the worm, you've got them.

Earlier in the season the ring will not completely encircle the worm; identification then is a little trickier. Worms tend to be reddish-purple in color with a slight iridescence.

Unlike European earthworms, Jumping Worms do not survive the winter. Beginning in August and going into the fall months, they lay eggs (no mate needed!) in cocoons that do have the ability to overwinter.

The cocoons look like small, round soil aggregates. In a recent experiment where researchers looked at the effect of heat and cold on the cocoons, there is promise that heat will kill the eggs and young in the cocoon.

What does this mean for us? I think a lot about solarization and how to do that effectively. One research document I read indicated that cocoons die at 104 degrees; worms at 85 degrees.

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Updates to the Baystate Mary Lane visioning meeting

There have been developments concerning Westmass Development since the Sept. 20, 2023, Baystate Mary Lane "visioning" meeting held at the Ware Senior Center.

I will touch on just a few in the space allowed. Resident participation was inspiring and spirited.

Several ideas for reuse were discussed but the overwhelming majority felt a return of health care was critical.

I took the opportunity to question Westmass Development's CEO Jeffery Daley at the meeting. There were about 100 residents present and the meeting was being video recorded for viewing later on Ware Community TV, so I felt it was important to clear up some important details, while on the record.

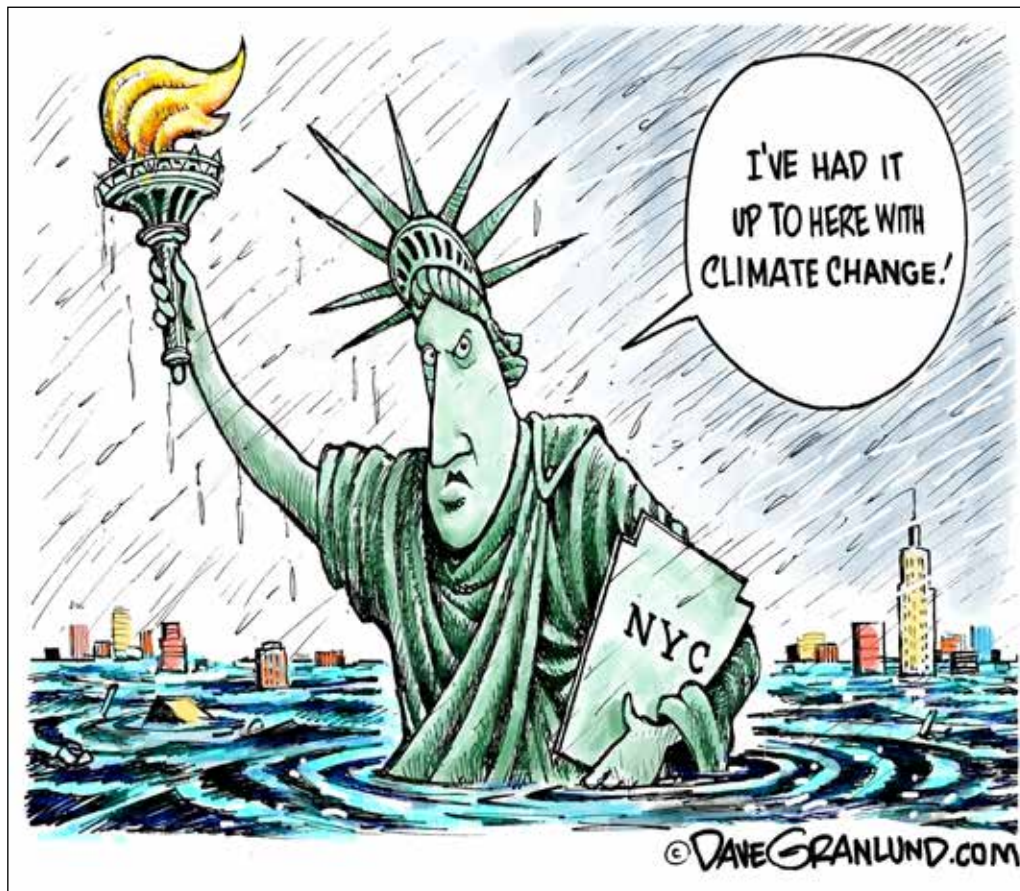
Daley and Sean O'Donnell, also from Westmass sat in the rear of the room for three hours, observing the proceedings. Neither spoke.

I told Daley I had a serious concern about two former Baystate Health people being on the Westmass Development Board of Directors. The two were involved in the closures.

Daley did answer my questions during the public meeting, then approached me afterward. We spoke for several minutes.

Daley said he would take former Baystate Eastern Region President Michael Moran off the Westmass Board and remove his name from their website. He also said that long-time Baystate Trustee John Maybury would be asked to abstain from Baystate Mary Lane matters, and he would provide board meeting minutes to me for verification.

I checked their website and Moran's name has been removed.



I told Daley that many residents were devastated by the loss of local access to medical care and by the planned demolition of the buildings.

Please ask your town managers and select board members to send official letters to Governor Healey requesting that she pause demolition until she can review the actions of both Baystate Health and Westmass Development in this matter.

I sent my first report and a request for a pause to Governor Healey weeks ago but she needs official requests too. I hope her promise of healthcare equity means we matter too.

I will send an emailed copy of the first part of my Baystate investigation to anyone wanting to see the 83 page document. Printed copies are also at the Ware Senior Center and the Ware Library. I'm hoping to keep the completed investigation under 200 pages. It is based on information I obtained from public requests and from direct contact with Baystate executives.

Email me at: segranlund@msn.com

Stephen Granlund
Hardwick

Landfill fees could restore and support EMS in town

As a former state-certified Emergency Medical Technician and a former member of the Town of Hardwick rescue squad, I respectfully disagree with the recent letter (Hardwick Ambulance? Sept. 14, 2023) arguing against the restoration of local ambulance service.

The writer is certainly entitled to his opinion, but the residents of Hardwick are also entitled to the facts.

Most important is the number of people who require emergency medical assistance in Hardwick.

According to the Hardwick Police Department, there were 420 emergency ambulance calls in our town last year. More than one

day. Given this level of need, let's look at the importance of emergency medical response times.

The closure of the Mary Lane Hospital emergency room in 2021 makes local ambulance service more important than ever. An ill or injured person in Hardwick Common now has to travel twice as far - a full 30 minutes - to get to the emergency room in Palmer.

That's a life-threatening distance. "Shortening ambulance response times will reduce mortality," according to a study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association in 2020.

Finally, let's focus on affordability. The proposal to expand the existing landfill on Patrill Hollow Road is projected to generate over \$2 million annually for the town of Hardwick. That's more than enough to restore ambulance service, finance a new firetruck, and help pay for the much-needed sewer upgrades Hardwick desperately needs.

The fate of the landfill project, and how the fees it generates are spent, will ultimately be decided by the people of Hardwick. We deserve no less than an honest and respectful debate based on the facts.

Marie Hayward
Gilbertville

Physician's Advisory Panel against landfill

Editor's note: This letter was also sent to the town of Hardwick's Select Board.

For the health and safety of Hardwick residents, the Physicians Advisory Panel to the Hardwick Board of Health strongly urges the Town of Hardwick Select Board not to sign the Host Community Agreement with Hardwick Landfill, Inc. (aka, Casella Waste), until such time that Hardwick Board of Health has had the opportunity to perform due diligence and consider all the health impacts.

Utilizing various sources of data including the Hardwick 12/2005 air quality studies which found elevated 1,1,2,2 tetrachloroethane in many Hardwick residential loca-

tions, the independent 2005 Greenwich Road Traffic study, as well as medical and scientific literature including the Federal EPA, the Physician Advisory Panel has concluded that the reopening of the Hardwick Landfill poses a significant threat to the Health and Safety of Hardwick residents.

Furthermore, the Physician's Advisory Panel recommends that other boards in town including the Planning Board and Conservation Commission formally review and consider the potential health impacts of Casella siting a regional landfill in a residentially zoned area over a high yield public water source.

The long-lasting impacts of landfills on

human health are well documented and we can assume that Casella's landfill will be no exception.

As professional health care providers motivated by concern for the health and well-being of Hardwick residents, the Physicians Advisory Panel to the Board of Health strongly urges the Hardwick Selectboard not to sign the HCA and allow all the health impacts to be fully investigated.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Liland, M.D.
Lisa Nash, M.D., M.P.H.
Richard Romano, M.D.

DV Task Force invites community to walk

Our 8th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk will take place on Sunday, Oct. 15, 1 p.m., at Veteran's Park in Ware.

If it rains, we'll be at Ware Town Hall.

Students from the Ware High School Domestic Violence Task Force will once again lead this event. Representative Todd Smola, Selectboard member Nancy Talbot, members of the High School Task Force, and others will speak.

We will have exhibits, art, music, and community, all followed by a short walk through downtown Ware.

Attending the Walk is a powerful way to

be part of the solution to domestic violence.

We are lucky in Ware to have local domestic violence advocates out of BHN (413-967-6241). Services are critical, but alone they are not enough.

In order to transform our community, we need everyone involved. We need to be clear that our community will not tolerate domestic violence.

We need to be clear that everyone deserves to be safe and to be treated with respect.

The more of us who participate in this Walk, the stronger our message will be. We hope you can join us!

Sincerely,

Jennie Simmons, Nancy Talbot,
Melissa Hutchins, Peggy Baxter,
Paul Regan, Caitlin McCarthy,
Paula Kularski, Stuart Beckley,
Erin Ballard, Jacquie Jock,
Melissa Stebenne, Jennifer Raiche,
Representative Todd Smola,
Chief Gerald Millette, Jessica Morin,
Kirstin Krieger, Monica Moran,
Sue Lewandowski and Catherine Kay
Members, Ware River Valley
Domestic Violence Task Force

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region

Ware River Watershed Public Access Plan finalized

By Eric Goodhart
Correspondent

BARRE – The people have not only spoken; they have been heard.

Efforts by the Chair of the Ware River Watershed Advisory Council, Jeffrey Schaaf along with the Council members, to continue to allow public access to the watershed paid off at the Sept. 13 meeting, held at Quabbin Regional Middle High School.

The Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Conservation and Recreation presented their final plan that night by the Director of Natural Resources, Dan Clark.

It had been almost three years since the commonwealth began the process in 2019, but the pandemic and lockdowns delayed the proceedings to review the DEP policies every 10 years. But by the time the DEP met via Zoom on Feb. 23, thousands of concerned citizens had heard that some restrictive changes to the Ware River Watershed Public use policies were planned and they were alarmed.

Many were apprehensive at the Rutland Library that night. Many citizens came to hear firsthand about the proposals reducing or eliminating some recreational uses of the Ware River Watershed to ensure that the quality of the water was never contaminated and safe to drink into the future, which appeared not to have been scientifically based on sound research over time.

The question and answer part became heated.

Particularly insightful questions and statements made from two members of the Advisory Council, Dennis Guberski, a Rutland resident and Cynthia Schlener, from Hubbardston, pointed them out.

Anne Gobi, now the newly appointed Director of Rural Affairs, but state Senator at the time, was one of several who said the monitoring and protection program for both the Quabbin, and the Ware River Watershed has been exemplary year after year.

In fact, they continued to be awarded by the DEP the Public Water System award by performing above and beyond the standards required.

In a very impressive show of concern by citizens when they are informed with the facts and

come together to make their views known has clearly shown what can be accomplished from the ground up. At the end of that meeting in February there were over 8,000 citizen signatures presented to the Director Natural Resources, Dan Clark to share with the MA DEP and the EPA in Boston. There were many more comments made on line for a few weeks after the February meeting on the DEP website set up for public feedback.

All of that and spearheaded by Schaaf and the WRWAC Council's efforts have clearly been influential in the overall favorable outcome in the final recommendations made by the DEP announced on Sept. 13.

They are now posted for the public to see on the www.mass.gov website by searching "2023 Ware River Public Access Plan Final". The pdf illustrates the existing policy, the DEP first draft and the final policy.

Feedback from some of the attendees on Sept. 13, was positive rather than negative in any substantive way.

Perhaps there is still some caution and final review of the plan will be when the WRWAC meets on Thursday, Oct. 5. At that time there will be an official statement made.

Part of the reason for the delay was the newly elected Governor Maura Healey had much on her plate and did not fill the position of Massachusetts Commissioner of the DEP until March. That person is Bonnie Heiple an attorney with an impressive resume with a focus on environmental and water protection issues.

Healey has said this about her. "As commissioner, Bonnie Heiple will be focused on protecting our residents and our most precious resources from harmful contaminants and the threats of a changing climate."

It seems much state and national and global policy has its origin based on climate change.

In addition, Healey also appointed a new Commissioner of the DCR, Brian Arrigo, former Mayor of Revere. He has already said he wants to be the "longest serving" person in that office. The Commissioner has been replaced six times over the last eight years.

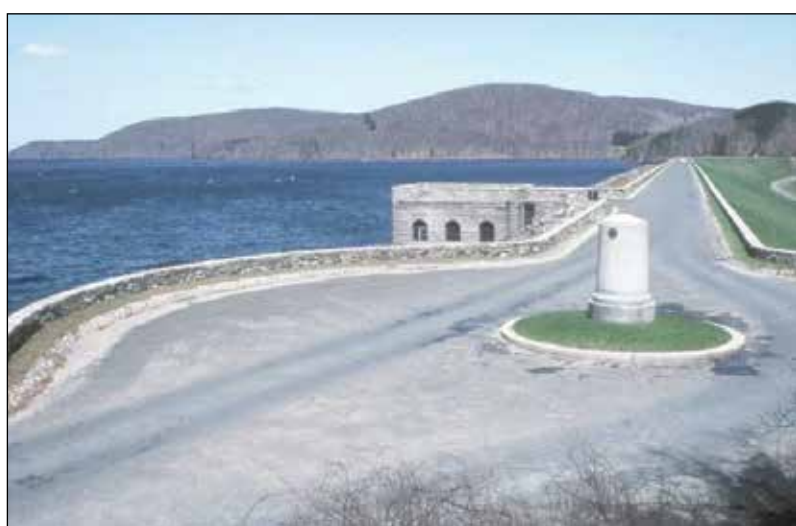
At the end of the Sept. 13 meeting, Clark said that the final plan included a statement that the "Division of Water Supply



The slide show presented at the Quabbin Regional High School in September lists procedural elements.



This is the clean well kept beach on the southwest side of Comet Pond in Hubbardston.



Quabbin Reservoir's Winsor Dam is the largest dam in Massachusetts at 2,640 feet in length.

Protection DWSP will reserve the right to become more restrictive if access issues arise and cannot be resolved." Therefore, the members of the WRWAC urge all citizens

using the beautiful natural resources of the Commonwealth, public and private to continue to be careful stewards of the land.

Country Bank recognized for charitable giving

WARE – The Boston Business Journal has named Country Bank an honoree in its annual 2023 Corporate Citizenship Awards, recognizing the region's top corporate charitable contributors.

The Business Journal annually publishes this list to highlight companies that promote and prioritize giving back to their communities.

"It is with honor that we present our list of the Top Charitable Contributors in Massachusetts, companies who gave \$100,000 or more to Mass. based charities in 2022. Collectively, they gave \$423 million in cash contributions, a true example of the business community coming together to help those in need. We are proud to celebrate these organizations who give both money and time to make our communities a stronger and better place for all," said Boston Business Journal Market President and Publisher Carolyn Jones in a press release.

During this year's celebration

on Sept. 7, 100 companies qualified for the distinction by reporting at least \$100,000 in cash contributions to Massachusetts-based charities last year, as noted above. This year's honorees include companies from such industry sectors as financial and professional services, health care, technology, retail, and professional sports.

Country Bank, ranked 44th, employs 220 staff members within Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. The Bank's team of Difference Makers actively promote the Bank's mission of making a difference in their communities by volunteering for various non-profits throughout the year.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Boston Business Journal for Country Bank's philanthropic efforts. As a community bank, it is our mission to help make a difference in the lives of others," stated Paul Scully, president and CEO at Country Bank.

Photo contest seeks entries for Hardwick calendar

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Christmas on the Common Committee will be holding a photo contest for the chance to be the featured photo in its Hardwick 2024 calendar cover or the picture of the month.

Photos must be taken within the town. Pictures can be nature, animals, people, scenic, etc.

All entries must be emailed to christmasoncommonhardwick@gmail.com by Oct. 20. Entries must include photographer's name, location the photo was taken, and what month (or cover) you'd like to be entered in.

Voting will open Oct. 21-29 on the Hardwick Christmas on the Common Facebook page.

Calendars will be sold at the upcoming Hardwick Classic Christmas on the Common on Sunday Nov. 26.

Button Show being held on Oct. 21

THREE RIVERS – The Massachusetts Button Society's annual meeting and show will be hosted by the Crescent Button Club on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Amvets Post 74 on Main Street, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the day's activities and to purchase buttons and button related items from 9 a.m.-noon and from 1:30-3 p.m.

There will be no button sales during the break from noon-1:30 p.m., as lunch, a business meeting, and program on Crown Buttons will take place.

Morning visitors will be treated to coffee and refreshments provided by the hosting clubs; bring a brown bag lunch, and desserts will be provided. There is no admission fee, and all are welcome.

What to know about HSAs and FSAs

Paying for health care can be challenging — but are you taking full advantage of all the resources available to you?

You might have access to a Health Savings Account (HSA) or a Flexible Spending Account (FSA), so let's look at both.

An HSA is a personal savings account used to pay health care costs. If you're enrolled in a high-deductible health plan, you also may be eligible to contribute to an HSA. You aren't taxed on the money you put into this account or on the earnings generated from your contributions, as long as withdrawals are used for qualified health care costs such as deductibles, copayments and coinsurance. And there's no "use it or lose it" provision with HSAs — the money stays in your account until you use it. In fact, you can carry your HSA with you all the way until retirement, when you can use the money to pay for qualified expenses that Medicare or Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) doesn't cover. In 2023, you can contribute up to \$3,850 to an HSA, or \$4,850 if you're 55 or older; for family coverage, you can put in up to \$7,750.

It's important to keep in mind that your HSA's tax benefits only apply when your withdrawals are used for qualified health care costs. If you use the money for non-qualified expenses, it is considered taxable income, and you may also face a penalty of 20% on the amount withdrawn. However, once you turn 65, you can use your HSA funds for any purpose without a penalty, though the withdrawals will still count as taxable income.

Now, let's turn to the Flexible Savings Account. An FSA may be available to you if you get health insurance through your employer. And because you fund your FSA with pretax dollars, your contributions can reduce your taxable income. (In 2023, you can contribute up to \$3,050 to an FSA.) Your employer may also choose to contribute to your FSA. Once your account is funded and active, you submit claims with proof of your medical expenses, along with a statement that these expenses aren't covered by your plan, and you can be reimbursed for your costs.

It's helpful to have a good estimate of your yearly medical expenses for a Flexible Savings Account. That's because an FSA generally needs to be spent before the end of the plan year — if you don't use all the money, you can only carry over some of it and any remaining balance is forfeited. (You can carry over up to \$610 from 2023 into 2024.)

You can't contribute to an HSA and a traditional FSA in the same year. But if you have an HSA, you might be able to use what's known as a Limited Purpose Flexible Spending Account (LPFSA) for dental and vision expenses. You'll need to check with your plan to see if this option is available.

Managing your health care expenses should be a key part of your overall financial strategy — so consider putting an HSA or FSA to work for you.

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Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Ware native Frances Rahaim provides the vocals for the band Ask Me Now.

MUSIC from page 1

Lee, Bessie Smith, Cole Porter, Diana Krall and Stevie Wonder.

After hearing Ask Me Now perform elsewhere, Wilburn knew he had to have the group perform at the Church.

Rahaim said it was special for Ask Me Now to perform at the Church, and she introduced her bandmates and she said she's "in awe" of the fact that she gets to work with them.

"I just love these guys," she said. The quartet specializes in delivering interesting arrangements and treatments to time-tested favorites and lesser-known gems. They play a wide variety of jazz standards, blues, swing, ballads, Brazilian and something they call "sophisti-pop" for your listening pleasure.

Dominic Poccia, on reeds, has played in jazz groups in western Massachusetts for more than 40 years and has recorded with local bands and performed back up for several well-known bands such as the Temptations, Martha Reeves, Mary Wilson, Paul Winter and Steve Davis.

Bassist, Don Baldini, formerly had a professional career as a studio musician in Los Angeles has toured and performed with some of the "greats" - Frank Sinatra, Johnny Mathis, Peggy Lee, Tony Bennett, Helen Reddy, Paul Anka, Nancy Wilson, Teddy Wilson, Andy Williams and Henry Mancini.

Baldini's musical influences even found their way into his wedding ceremony, as his vows were the lyrics to "Fly Me to the Moon".

"Anytime we play it, it's for Rebecca [his wife]," Rahaim said.

Pianist/arranger James Argiro comes with vast experience in all phases and aspects of music creation, production, and the performing arts.

He has been affiliated with dozens of stars in all media. Much of his career was spent in Hollywood television and recording studios and as a staff member on many television variety shows, including Sonny & Cher, Tony Orlando & Dawn.

David McMahon, co-executive director of Dismas House and Farm, which is located in Oakham, said it's a wonderful place to help people get back on their feet following incarceration.

Named after the thief who was crucified next to Jesus, Dismas House and



David McMahon, co-executive director of Dismas House and Farm, thanked the audience for supporting the organization.

Farm is all about redemption and second chances.

"We rely on the support of the community and churches," McMahon said, to keep the program going.

For over 30 years, Dismas House has helped formerly incarcerated people find support and learn new skills, and the 12-bed working farm gives them the chance to work with animals and learn agricultural practices.

Dismas Family Farm offers a summer CSA, even donating food to local food pantries.

Now Dismas Family Farm is preparing for their Fall Harvest Days at 687 Lincoln Road on Saturdays, Oct. 7 and 14 from noon-4 p.m. There will be hay rides, pumpkins, free food and more. Admission is free.

McMahon said the Fall Harvest Days give the residents of Dismas Family Farm a chance to give back to the people that help support them.

McMahon said he grew up in New Jersey and his grandmother was an avid Frank Sinatra fan. Ask Me Now's performance in honor of Dismas House and Farm, was a "phenomenal special treat."

For more information about Dismas House and Farm, visit dismasisfamily.org or stop by one of the Fall Harvest Days.

For more information about Ask Me Now, visit askmenow.live.

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow



Bish soaking up the sun.



Paqo hiding out in one of the nooks on a cat tower.



Pippa is often found lounging in the sun-room.

Adoption center helps cats find forever homes

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary is a non-profit, cage-free cat adoption center dedicated to helping people and their animals.

"It's a community based organization... We're funded by the community and for the community," said HTAT Executive Director Rachael Max.

Located in Brimfield, the shelter serves nine neighboring communities including Holland, Monson, Palmer, Wales, Warren, Ware, Sturbridge and Southbridge.

HTAT provides several services and resources for local animals and residents such as a food pantry, low cost spay/neuter programs, a safety net foster program and free behavioral help.

"Most people don't want to give up their animals... We do our best to keep the cats in the home," said Max.

Before accepting a cat into the shelter, Max said they may ask pet owners "what if we gave you some behavioral help? Pet food pantry? Cat spay or neuter?"

The organization's goal is to give cats "the best care they can get, the best lives that they have and the best homes that they can find - which is back into the community with people and families who love them," said Max.

While Max has "loved animals [her] entire life," it wasn't until she volunteered at a humane society as a grad student that she realized she wanted to work in a shelter setting.

"I ended up loving that more than what I was actually studying, and I really wanted to make a difference on a local level," said Max.

Although she "really enjoyed working at the humane society," Max said it was a very "traditional shelter."

"I saw all the animals in their cages, and I just knew I could do a better job," said Max.

Around 2007 Max said she and her mother attended a workshop that introduced her to the cage free philosophy and how to open your own shelter.

Max said being cage free is "really important" to her as she wants "to give



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
Owner Rachael Max and staff members Mika Schneider and Sanna Hart stand before "Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow."

[cats] a lower stress scenario so they can have a high quality of life while they're here."

She added, in her studies she found when animals get stressed, "especially cats, they are more likely to get sick."

Providing a cage free environment for the cats allows them to "stay happy and healthy until they are adopted."

"Once I opened this place, I wanted to help as many cats as I could... I didn't like having to say no. In order to help more cats, I had to be able to make more programs. That's when I started getting more into spay/neuter return," said Max.

According to Max, when cats aren't spayed and neutered, it creates more work for the shelters as "that's how we end up with overpopulation [and] more feral cats."

She added neutering and spaying is important to cats' health because the more litters a cat has "the less healthy they become."

She recommends getting animals "fixed as soon as you possibly can," as they can become pregnant as young as four months old or develop fatal infections.

HTAT's low spay/neuter program costs just \$65 and can be applied for online on the HTAT website.

The organization pays for nearly 500 cats to get spayed and neutered annually, and puts 3,000 pounds of food into the

community every month. "We have 500-600 animals depending on us to feed them every month...not including the 'Care for Life' animals," said Max.

HTAT is also responsible for medical bills of special needs cats they've adopted out.

Being a 501 (c) 3, HTAT receives no government funding from either the commonwealth or the town.

Max said, "It's definitely the generosity of the community" that helps keep the sanctuary in business.

"We appreciate everything that we can get back and that people are willing to donate towards helping us including the cats here in our care," said Max.

The organization relies on grants, donations and fundraising initiatives to help cats in need.

There are many ways to support HTAT. The organization is always accepting donation items, funding and volunteer support.

HTAT also has felines looking for their forever homes and are available for adoption.

To donate to the organization, apply for low cost spay and neutering services or plan a visit to consider adopting a cat, please see the HTAT website at <https://www.heretodayshelter.org/>.

Adoption hours are Saturdays from 1-4 p.m.

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Spread the word that the best place to get your fall decorations is the Sturbridge Federated Church, in Sturbridge, MA where the finest pumpkins & gourds will be for sale.

Proceeds will benefit the Navajo Indian Nation as well as various local and regional charities.

For more information about the Pumpkin Patch, contact us at the Church Office (774) 304-1021 or www.sturfed.org

WARE RIVER NEWS

Halloween CONTEST

Send us your Halloween House Decoration photos from this year! We are looking for decor in 4 categories:

- Scariest**
People run screaming!
- Most Creative**
Best use of recycled materials!
- Kid Friendly**
Kids just want to hang out with you!
- Flashy**
Lights, lights and more lights!

We will choose a winner in each category who will receive a gift card from one of our sponsors.

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All photos will run in our paper with the winners being announced.

Please send all entries to warerivernews@turley.com labeled halloween contest. All entries must be submitted by October 20th. Include Name, Address & Phone

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Saturday, Oct. 28
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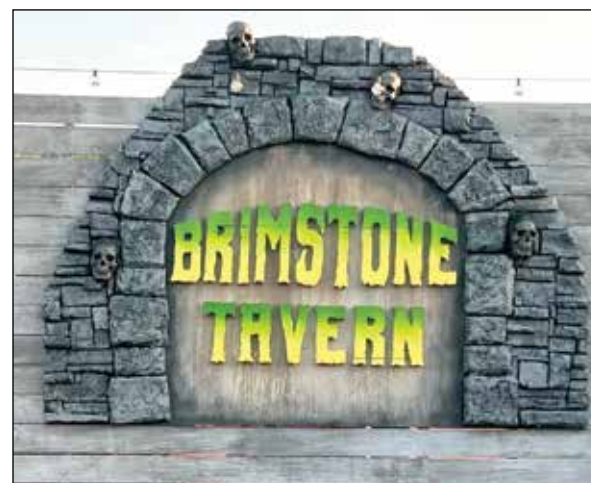
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For memories, take photos while visiting 13th World and prove you survived the fright park.



The sawmill is one of the 13 horror worlds you will experience on the tour of the park.



The Brimstone tavern is located in the midway of 13th World offering horror themed beverages.



Tickle Time Creamery is sure to give you a thrill.

13th World Fright Park returns to Palmer

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – It's the time of year to get scared as the fright park known as 13th World returns.

This is the second year 13th World has come to Palmer and is ready to embrace the Halloween spirit with their horror style.

Still fairly new to the scene in Palmer, 13th World is originally based out of Rhode Island. Owners, Rich Vaillant and Zeke Fortier have been utilizing the fright park for over 20 years.

The idea of 13th World sparks from the Halloween spirit, but with a more horror-based atmosphere applied to it. The park features a tour that takes frightened visitors through 13 different universes with themes related to horror classics.

The familiar horror themes that inspired some of the attractions of 13th World include the Halloween movie series, "Stranger Things", and "The Nun". The worlds are utilized in the form of a walking tour that is full of fright and exhibits locations that can be easily classified as horror settings.

The worlds include an abandoned school building, a sawmill, slaughterhouse, swamplands, a hospital, and an "I scream" creamery.

If the scenery wasn't terrifying

enough, the 13th World has a crew that adds to the fear of the park.

More than 70 actors are part of 13th World and bring the scare factor to the tour.

If you're brave enough to interact with the actors, 13th World offers a spooky deal that occasionally happens on the walking tour. The special is known as the Touch of Fear.

Visitors can get a special necklace to wear indicating that it is okay to be touched by the characters during the tour. There are some sequences in some of the worlds where a walker on tour can be grabbed as if they're in a suspenseful scene in a horror film when the victim is attacked.

One year, a lot of patrons bought the Touch of Fear necklace, but many soon realized how much scarier it is an addition to the fright park tour.

According to General Manager of 13th World, Daren Bradway, more than 60 people who bought a necklace initially had learned how scary the touch of fear would be on the walk. Therefore, they took the necklaces off and wanted nothing to do with the touch of fear element.

After surviving the 13th World fright tour patrons can return to the midway and enjoy the festivities and other main attractions offered by the park.

Another scary attraction that is in the midway is the Alone course. Enter the long maze alone and encounter scary features in the dark.

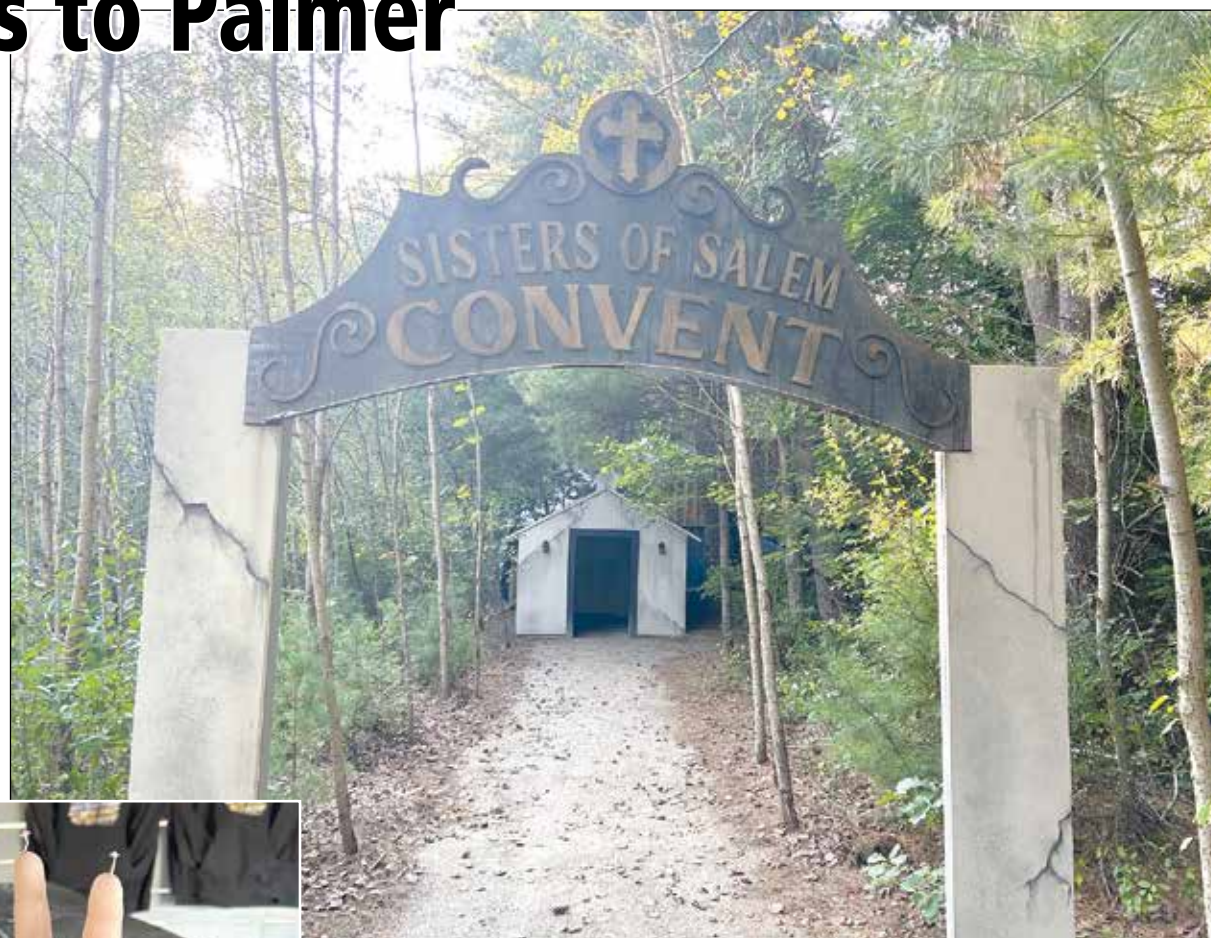
For refreshments, the outdoor Brimstone Tavern is there to serve. Much like the tour, the beverages are horror themed as well.

Adults can enjoy the refreshments of a murderitas, witches brew, vampire blood, a poison apple, and a skull crusher. Before your entrance or exit, don't forget to stop in for some merchandise.

Portraits, candles, masks, and horror ornaments are some of many unique items you can purchase at 13th World Fright Park. Hoodies of 13th World are popular pieces of merchandise and indicate how great of an experience visitors can



The park features a merchandise store with portraits, candles, masks, hoodies, and horror ornaments.



The convent world is inspired by the new horror film the "Nun". 13th World utilizes the convent as well.

have at the park.

"We want the gift shop to be an experience for those who visit the park," said Vaillant.

The creators behind 13th World Palmer expect more than 10,000 visitors this season and hope to expand more features to the park for future seasons.

One of those features is live entertainment. Currently, a DJ booth is performing while visitors arrive at the fright park.

Bradway is in his first year as general manager of 13th World and enjoys the atmosphere of Palmer.

"It's so good to be in this place. It gives people something to do in Palmer," said Bradway.

The park always enjoys bringing aboard new cast to play the characters to add to the scare factor. In Bradway's eyes, the actors are creative in how they

Please see **13th WORLD**, page 10

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Emily Jones pounces on this kick on goal.

Girls soccer falls to Granby

WARE – Last Thursday, Granby scored six times in the first half and rode the momentum to a 7-1 win at Ware. Ware got just a single goal from Emily McGrail. The Indians would rebound and

defeat Springfield International Charter on Sunday afternoon, with Madisyn Davis and McGrail scoring goals in a 2-1 win over the Bulldogs. Ware is now 2-6 for the season.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com
Abigail McQuaid boots the ball to an open teammate.



Olivia DiRienzo fights to maintain control of the ball.



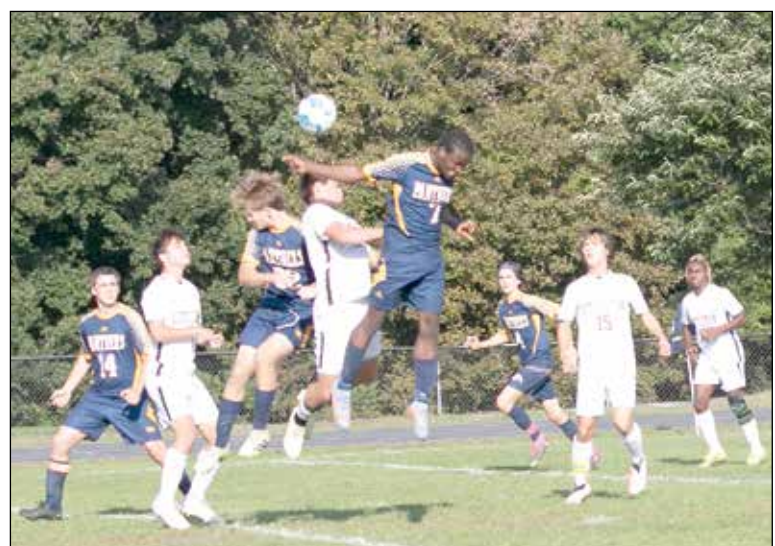
Madisyn Slattery steals the ball on this play.



Emily McGrail clears the ball from the goal.

Tobin's pair lifts Quabbin

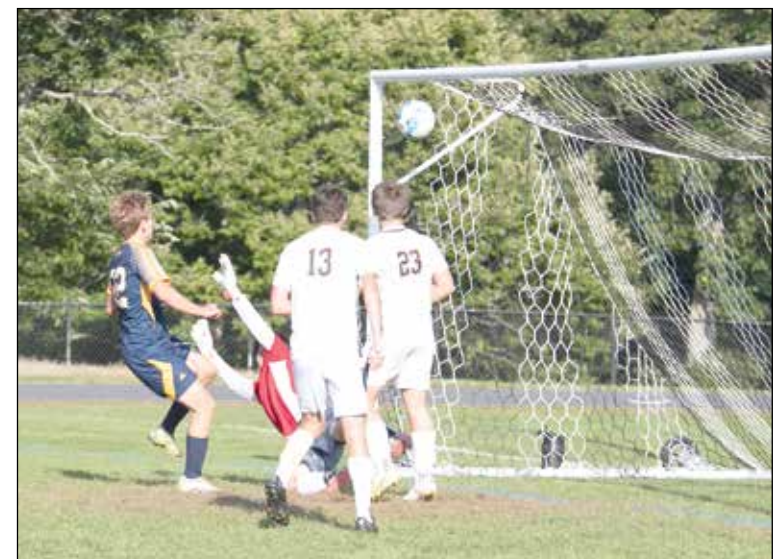
BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, Michael Tobin scored two goals as Quabbin defeated Littleton for its second win of the year. The Tigers are now 2-6 with a 2-6 mark in the Mid-Wach C League.



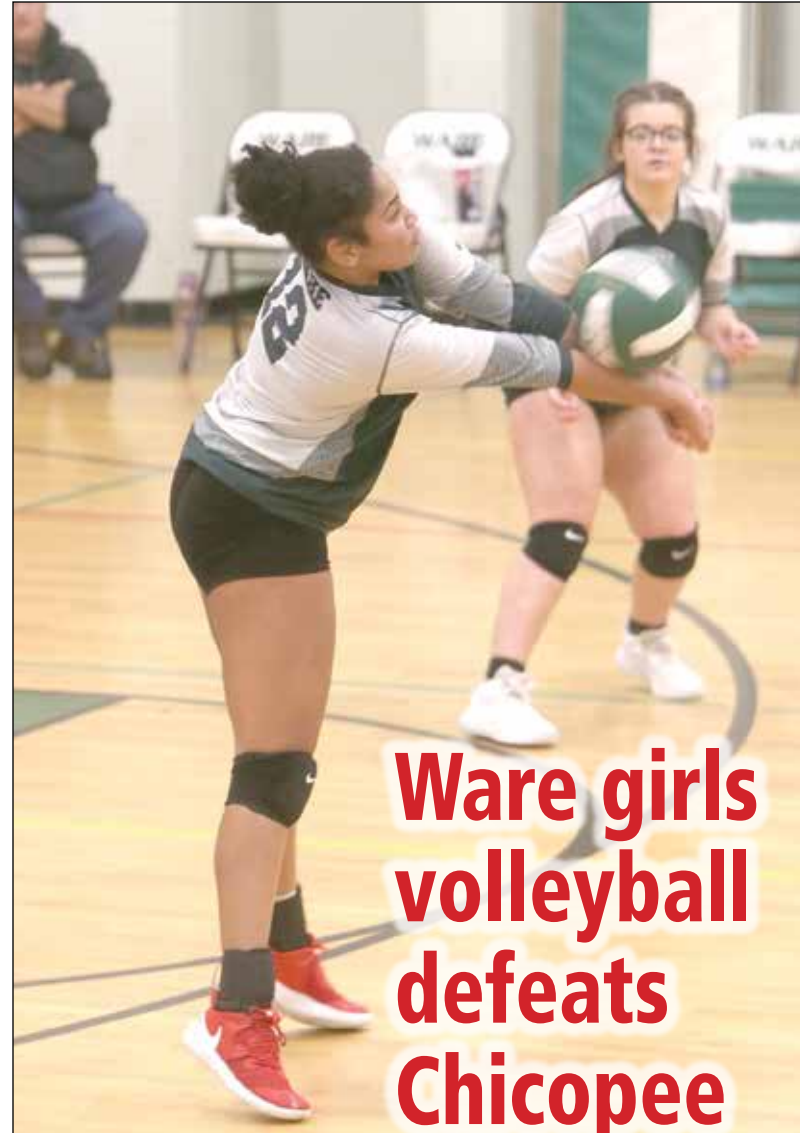
A group of Panthers jump for the ball.



Turley photos by Ray Duffy
Alijah Flint with a big save for Quabbin.



Quabbin scores a goal.



Ware girls volleyball defeats Chicopee

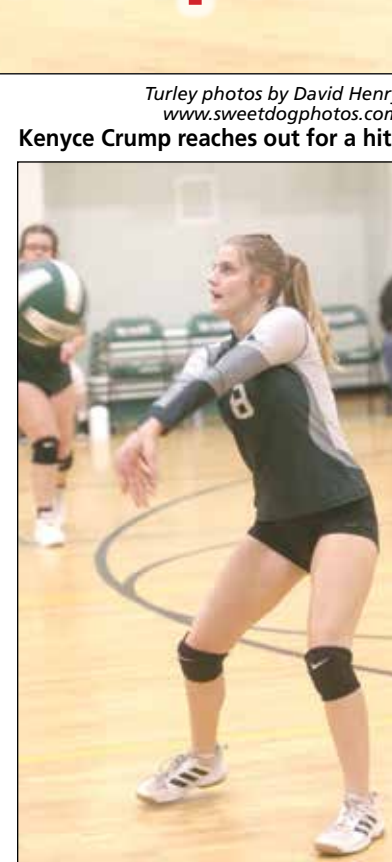


Kaley Campbell sets up a potential spike.

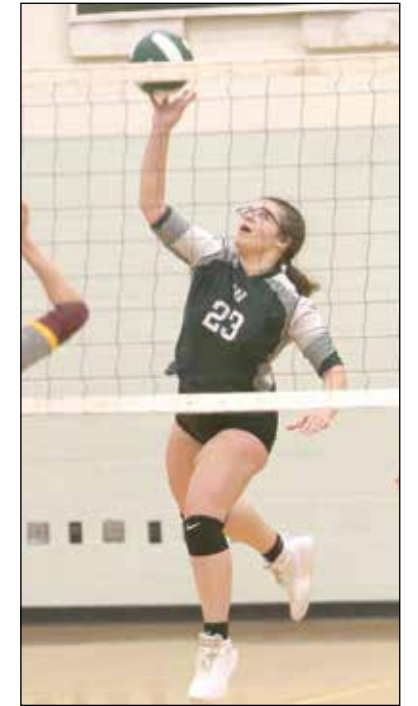
WARE – Last Monday afternoon, Ware scored a much-needed win against Chicopee 3-1. In the win, Carly Brown and Kira Gennett had five kills each and Kaley Campbell had six aces. Gennett contributed seven aces in the win. The Indians are now 5-6 this season.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Carly Brown tries to hit the ball past her opponents.



Emma Zalesky gets a bump.



Kira Gennett goes for a spike.

Pioneers keep winning

PALMER – With the exception of a setback in their season opener, Pathfinder boys soccer has kept on winning. The Pioneers defeated Hampden Charter last Wednesday 10-1 followed by a 1-0 win over Smith Vocational. With a number of postponements last month, the Pioneers still have a lot of games yet to play in October. The Pioneers head to Franklin Tech on Friday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m.



Seth Mitchell tries to steal the ball for the Pioneers.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Basem Yaseen looks for an opening to pass.

COUGARS SUFFER SETBACK AGAINST UXBRIDGE



Katelynn Swistak clashes with an opponent.

WARREN – On a sun-splashed afternoon last Thursday, the Quaboag Regional High School field hockey team suffered a tough defeat against Uxbridge, who came in and overwhelmed Quaboag with offense in an 8-1 decision. Josie Hescoc had the only goal for the Cougars, who are now 4-3 on the season.



A scrum ensues in front of the Quaboag goal. The Cougars were able to clear it out on this occasion just a few minutes into the match.



Lexi Gauthier-Vanderpuye tries to head of an Uxbridge player's progress.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Hanna Nemeroff guides the ball up the field.

sports

Owls hold on for first victory

WESTFIELD – Westfield State's Max Margeson (Littleton, Colo./Mullen HS) and Alec Rodriguez (Westfield, Mass.) combined for a memorable interception return play for a touchdown to lift the Owls to a 17-10 win over Massachusetts Maritime Academy at Alumni Field on Saturday to bring a happy conclusion to Family and Champions Weekend.

Margeson delivered a perfectly timed hit on MMA wide receiver Andrew Brightman (Wareham, Mass./Upper Cape Tech) to jar loose the ball on a catch, with the ball ping-ponging directly to Owls' linebacker Rodriguez for the interception at the MMA 32-yard line. Rodriguez returned the ball a couple of yards before Brightman snagged him by the ankle, and Rodriguez handed the ball off to Margeson, who rambled 30 yards through traffic for the touchdown to give Westfield a 17-10 lead with 9:07 left in the third quarter.

The Owls hung on down the stretch for the win, improving to 1-4 on the season and 1-2 in the MASCAC. MMA slips to 1-3 overall and 1-1 in the league.

The two teams traded salvos in the first half, with the Buccaneers getting on the board on their first drive of the game with a 7-play, 73-yard march that was capped by a 29-yard TD pass to Brightman on deep post route completion

from quarterback Marc Murphy (Norwood, Mass.).

Westfield answered on their first drive, getting a big 52-yard kick return from Christian Julian (Hingham, Mass.) to set up the drive at the MMA 32. Seven plays later, Westfield's Jordan Smith (Coventry, Conn.) rumbled four yards up the middle for a game tying TD.

The two clubs traded field goals in the final 10 seconds of the half. MMA got a 24-yard TD from Logan Tsai (E. Freetown, Mass./Appoquonnet) to take a 10-7 lead with eight seconds left in the half.

Westfield got the ball back on the ensuing kickoff, and Owls QB Gabriel Fernandez (Holyoke, Mass.) found Danny Farrell (Milford, Mass.) on a 25-yard completion and a personal foul on the Buccaneers gave the Owls the ball at the MMA 22 yardline with four seconds left in the half.

Westfield State first-year kicker Cooper Harvey (Niskayuna, N.Y.) booted a 39-yard field goal as time expired to tie the game 10-10 at the half.

Neither team particularly threatened the end zone after the big interception return by the Owls. MMA drove the ball as far as the Owls' 38-yard line with less than two minutes to play, but Tyler Cooley (Randolph, Mass./Arch. Williams) dropped Murphy for a

loss on third down, and Murphy's long bomb try to Brightman on fourth down fell incomplete to end the threat, and Westfield knelt on the ball three times to run out the clock.

Fernandez finished 14-25 passing for 138 yards. Farrell finished with six catches for 65 yards, and Smith rushed for 77 yards on 25 carries.

For MMA, Murphy completed 12 of 23 passes for 206 yards with a TD and an interception. Daniel Molloy (Franklin, Mass.) led the rushing attack with seven carries for 22 yards, and Brightman finished with eight catches for 96 yards. Molloy added three catches for 54 yards.

Defensively, Cooley led the Owls with 13 tackles, and Cam Danahy (Kingston, Mass./Silve Lake) added nine. Dylan Clark (Bellows Falls, Vt./BFA) came up with two big plays with two tackles for losses of 12 yards.

Liam Hines (Quincy, Mass./North Quincy) led MMA with seven tackles. Owen Shea (Scituate, Mass./Norwell) made five tackles, 2.5 TFL's and a sack.

Westfield heads into its bye week, before returning to host its homecoming game against UMass-Dartmouth on Saturday, Oct. 14. MMA faces UMass Dartmouth next Saturday, Oct. 7 with a 4 p.m. kick off in North Dartmouth, Mass.

Bonsignore heads for Thompson for big event

NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. – After 150 laps at North Wilkesboro Speedway, Justin Bonsignore brought his No. 51 machine home in third-place on Saturday night. As the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour made their debut at the North Carolina oval in the Brushy Mountain Powersports 150, Bonsignore ran inside the top-five for much of the race.

A final green-white-checked finish where Bonsignore lined up in fifth was exactly what he needed in the Phoenix Communications entry. Bonsignore followed fellow championship contender Ron Silk up through the field to finish third, just behind Silk.

In the title battle, Bonsignore will hold a two-point lead heading for the final two races of the season.

"The green-white-checked restart definitely helped get us back to the podium," Bonsignore said. "We got a good jump on the final restart. It was a good night for us. We were just a bit tight on the second set of tires. It's going to go down to the end. It's going to be a championship battle for the ages."

Bonsignore will move to Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park next on Sunday, Oct. 8 for the Sunoco World Series 150. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is part of a three-day event at Thompson next weekend.

For more information on three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore, visit JustinBonsignore.com and follow his Athlete page on Facebook for the latest news and updates, including from the track on race day.

Halloween fun day to be held Oct. 7

HARDWICK – The Friends of the Stone Church will present a Halloween fun day with arts and dance activities at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville between 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7.

This event is free for children of all ages. The program will offer spirited ghost dances and games, mask-making, painted pumpkins, cookies to decorate and other fun.

Local artists and crafters will instruct, and refreshments will be served.

Reservations are requested at <https://forms.gle/Kq194HygDjD1riu68> or by calling Kathy McCrohon at 508-404-7552 by Oct. 5. Youth under age 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Cambridge half-marathon registration open

CAMBRIDGE – Registration is open for the Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide. The races are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5 (race begins 7 a.m. EST) on a gorgeous new course with views of the Charles River along Memorial Drive.

The Cambridge Half Marathon is a 13.1 mile fast and flat course featuring views of the MIT, John W. Weeks Footbridge, Harvard

University Stadium, Charles River and more. The new 5K race also offers scenic views alongside the Charles River. Both courses are USATF certified and start and finish at CambridgeSide.

Race registration includes quarter zip pull over (half marathon participants) or long sleeve shirt (5K participants), five complimentary CambridgeSide parking passes, training plan, race bib with timing chip, and finishing

medal. Register for both races at CambridgeSide.com.

Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide race proceeds benefit Cambridge Camping (CambridgeCamping.org). City of Cambridge Scholarship Fund (CambridgeScholarshipFund.org) as well as other local charities. Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K is sponsored by Canam Group Inc. and training sponsor MYSTRYDE.

Thunderbirds make roster moves ahead of opener

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today the team has assigned 12 players to its AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds, including forwards Mikhail Abramov, Drew Callin, Tanner Dickinson, Andre Heim, and Mitch Hoelscher, defenseman Jeremie Biakabutuka, Joseph Duszak, Marc-Andre Gaudet, Austin Osmani, and Hunter Skinner, and goaltenders Will Cranley and Vadim Zherenko. In addition, the Blues released forward Nick Ritchie and defenseman Andy Welinski from their professional tryouts.

The Calder Cup quest begins on Saturday, Oct. 14 for Opening Night presented by MGM Springfield.

In the team's annual tradition, fans will be treated to a pre-game Block Party on the property of MGM Springfield from 4 to 6 p.m. presented by Community Bank N.A. with the support of the Springfield Business Improvement District (BID). The outdoor bash will feature live music, food, and drink.

Thunderbirds fans will have the opportunity to get their hands on a plethora of giveaway souvenir items this season, beginning on Opening Night with jersey-shaped rally towels on each and every seat at the MassMutual Center.

13TH WORLD from page 8

want to portray their characters.

"For the actors, you make the part," said Bradway. "Actors have their chance to produce themselves."

During their time in Palmer, 13th World Fright Park will be featuring a "no actors" night on Thursdays, Oct. 19 and Oct. 26. The two days are a great opportunity to take pictures of the tour.

The opening night for 13th World was Sept. 30 and goes on every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Saturday, Nov. 4.

Enter if you dare, 13th World Fright Park is located at 1701 Park St.



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Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

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Please send resume and writing examples to:

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or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

*Be sure to indicate "Holiday" in the subject line of your email.

Big Y to hold vaccine clinic at local stores

SPRINGFIELD – From now through Oct. 7, every Big Y Market location will hold an on-site multi vaccine clinic for all customers, employees and their families.

Check local stores for specific dates and times.

All stores will offer seasonal flu, high dose flu and COVID-19 vaccines including the updated COVID-19 booster. Stores with an on-site pharmacy also offer a variety of additional vaccines including the newly approved Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine, Pneumococcal (pneumonia) Shingrix (shingles), Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis), Hepatitis A and B, Meningococcal (Meningitis), MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella), and Gardasil (HPV).

Vaccines are administered to eligible adults and children ages 5 and older based upon product availability.

Further details are available on bigy.com where each location's specific times are listed. No appointments are necessary.

This third community wide event spans every one of Big Y's locations throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. Patients who receive a seasonal flu or COVID-19 vaccine from their pharmacist or trained pharmacy technician at any one of the clinics or pharmacy locations will receive a Big Y Coupon for \$5 off of a \$25 grocery purchase.

Each location will have other giveaways as well. Big Y's vaccination program continues to grow. Over the past year alone, they've administered nearly 100,000 doses of various vaccines. For those who might be interested, CDC guidance states that it is acceptable to receive two or more of these different vaccines at the same time making it more convenient for all.

According to Big Y's president and CEO, Charles L. D'Amour, "The safety and health of everyone in our region is so vitally important to us that we are excited to offer our 3rd Big Y Big Vax Week to everyone; our customers, employees and their families. Our professional pharmacy staff has been working hard to be able to provide this essential service in each of our neighborhoods at every one of our locations throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. This week-long event provides a convenient way for anyone to receive one of many vaccines to keep our community healthy. Big Y's Big Vax Week is one more way we've been serving our community for over 87 years."

Joining Faugno was Emmy Award-winning director and actor Dan Hamilton, who has family ties to Brookfield dating back to 1701.

Hamilton has taken all of Wilder's maps and videos and uploaded them to a website, robertwildermaps.org.

"He was a very special man," Hamilton said of Wilder, adding that he would like to continue his legacy.

Palmer native Donald Duffy spoke about the importance of waterways to the area's first inhabitants, and the watershed divide. After serving on his town's conservation commission for over 35 years, Duffy has seen every type of waterway there is.

"The watershed is something that nobody thinks of, but it was a boundary marker for the Natives," Duffy said.

Duffy said the Native Americans were hunter/gathers, chasing resources wherever they could.

"There's a wealth of animals in North America," he said, providing ample food and materials for Native Americans.

With the arrival of agriculture, the Native Americans didn't have to chase resources as much and their population expanded.

Duffy spoke about how beaver skin trader William Pynchon, the founder of the city of Springfield, would use Brookfield as a resting spot as he moved his skins to the coast. Pynchon was known for his amicable business relationships with Native Americans.

Duffy talked about Hendrick Kequoquau, who sought to get payment for land that once belonged to the Quaboag Indians.

"He wanted to make a claim against the government, did three times, and didn't receive any money," Duffy said. The land Kequoquau claimed is now part of the Chicopee River watershed.

Tom Silver Fox Morse is a Spiritual Leader of the

Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck Band of Nipmuck Indians.

Growing up, Morse had to keep his Native American background a secret, because his family feared it would lead to fighting, and it did.

His family's move to the Main South area of Worcester was "not a good one" Morse said.

"We did fight a lot," Morse said. "We protected my sister, too...it was a tough way to do things."

Morse began his training as a Spiritual Leader just before his father died.

"I had to prove myself...that I was worthy of the position," Morse said. As a Spiritual Leader, he has been present for deaths, marriages, and even births.

He is also a confidante, helping people to talk through their issues by listening to them.

Morse explained the significance of his "three sisters" bag that he wears around his neck, containing corn, bean and squash, along with sage. He said the bag is normally given to you at birth.

He also wears a rosary, along with a wiccan symbol, a necklace given to him by a friend, and a choker which was a gift from his

Brookfield's first inhabitants

Speakers discuss Native Americans roots in the community

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BROOKFIELD – After King Philip's War, Native Americans seemed to disappear from this area, at least in history books.

"That's not the case," Brookfield Historical Commission member Donald Faugno said at a program hosted by the Commission at the Brookfield Congregational Church last month.

Faugno, along with a panel of featured speakers, explored the history of Native Americans in Brookfield and beyond, to an audience that filled every pew in the church.

The program was dedicated to the late Robert Wilder, who spent decades mapping early Brookfield and the towns of the original Quaboag Plantation. In commemoration of the town's 350th anniversary, Wilder's friends and collaborators remembered his legacy and continued the conversation about the town's Native American story.

Joining Faugno was Emmy Award-winning director and actor Dan Hamilton, who has family ties to Brookfield dating back to 1701.

Hamilton has taken all of Wilder's maps and videos and uploaded them to a website, robertwildermaps.org.

"He was a very special man," Hamilton said of Wilder, adding that he would like to continue his legacy.

Palmer native Donald Duffy spoke about the importance of waterways to the area's first inhabitants, and the watershed divide. After serving on his town's conservation commission for over 35 years, Duffy has seen every type of waterway there is.

"The watershed is something that nobody thinks of, but it was a



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Lorenzo, James and Alfred Hazard are listed on Brookfield's Civil War memorial, serving in the 5th Calvary, an all-Black unit. Research has indicated that the Hazards were Native American and that a fourth family member also fought in the Civil War.

father when he became a Medicine Man.

At the program, Morse wore a shirt known as a "ribbon shirt," which was sewn by his late friend.

Morse said when he first wore the shirt to the Dudley Reservation, a spark from the fire landed on the front of the shirt, leaving a small hole over his chest. After his friend died, he recognized the significance of that hole.

"I figured out what it meant... there's a hole in my heart because she's gone," he said.

Morse has been active in working to preserve a former campground in town, which has been found to be historically significant to the Native Americans. The area has been run over by dirt bikes and four-wheelers, causing damage to burial sites and fencing.

Morse has talked with the town's selectmen about putting a Native American camping area on the site.

"There's a lot that's still there and worthy of preserving and remembering," he said.

Also worth remembering is the role Native Americans had in defending the country, especially during the Civil War.

Faugno said his research shows that four Native American men, the Hazards, all served in the 5th Cavalry during the Civil War, an all-Black unit. Three of the Hazards, Lorenzo, James and Alfred are all listed on the town's memorial, but the fourth Hazard is not.

"They get written out of history," Faugno said of Native Americans.

Documentary filmmaker Ted W. Timreck shared a video which explored the mysterious stone ruins found in the northeast, that up until recent years have been credited to early white settlers.

"The stone ruins were too unusual to be New England farmers or Europeans," Timreck said.

The northeast is considered a great "blind spot" for Native American influences.

"You have to see behind the facts," Timreck said.

Medicare 101 educational event is Oct. 17

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest St., will be hosting an educational presentation on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 11 a.m. for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare.

The information is specific to Massachusetts. The session will run from 1 to 1.5 hours, including time for questions.

The presentation will be conducted by Ed Spater, a licensed Insurance agent, who will explain the basics of Medicare

including: Why it's important to evaluate your current Medicare coverage each year.

The pros and cons of each of your Medicare coverage options.

What to consider when deciding which Medicare coverage option is right for you.

Ways to save money and get better Medicare coverage in 2024.

For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 774-271-5199 or 711 for TTY callers.

Smola supports comprehensive \$1.02 billion tax relief package

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Ways & Means Committee) has joined with his colleagues to approve a comprehensive tax package that will provide significant financial relief to Massachusetts residents and businesses.

House Bill 4104, "An Act to improve the Commonwealth's competitiveness, affordability, and equity," offers a phased-in approach to a series of tax reforms that is expected to produce \$561 million in savings for taxpayers this fiscal year and an estimated \$1.02 billion in savings once the changes are fully implemented in 2026.

The bill, which represents a compromise negotiated over the last three months by a six-member conference committee, received preliminary approval by the House of Representatives on a vote of 155-1 on Sept. 27.

"House Bill 4104 reflects our responsibility to strengthen Massachusetts' economic landscape while increasing the financial stability of our hardworking residents. I am thankful for the cohesive effort from the House of Representatives and believe that this tax relief package will improve the well-being of our constituents and businesses," Smola said in a press release.

Smola noted that the final tax package provides for increases in the child and dependent tax credit, the rental deduction cap, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. It also doubles the Senior Circuit Breaker tax credit while raising the estate tax threshold from \$1 million to \$2 million and increasing the amount seniors can deduct from their property taxes when participating in the Senior Property Tax Volunteer Program.

House Bill 4104 also authorizes a reduction in the short-term capital gains tax rate and imple-

ments a single sales factor for companies beginning Jan. 1, 2025, to encourage economic growth and help maintain Massachusetts-based businesses. In addition, the bill triples the maximum allowable Title V tax credit for homeowners repairing or replacing their septic tanks, while also expanding the lead paint abatement and taking steps to promote more housing development across the state.

According to Smola, House Bill 4104:

Combines the child and dependent tax credits into one while eliminating the existing cap and increasing the credit from \$180 to \$310 in FY23 and to \$440 in FY24, which will benefit over 565,000 families;

Increases the rental deduction cap from \$3,000 to \$4,000, which will assist approximately 800,000 renters;

Raises the Earned Income Tax Credit from 30% to 40% of the federal credit, which will benefit approximately 400,000 taxpayers earning less than \$60,000;

Doubles the maximum Senior Circuit Breaker tax credit from \$1,200 to \$2,400, indexed to inflation, to assist nearly 100,000 seniors with their housing costs;

Eliminates the estate tax for all estates valued under \$2 million and allows for a uniform credit of \$99,600, effective Jan. 1, 2023;

Allows municipalities to provide up to \$2,000 in property tax reductions for older residents participating in the senior work-off program, which is currently capped at \$1,500;

Reduces the tax on short-term capital gains from 12% to 8.5%;

Replaces the current three-prong sales tax apportionment for Massachusetts-headquartered businesses that incorporates property, payroll and sales with a new system that only factors in sales;

Increases the maximum tax credit for septic tank repairs or

replacement under Title V from \$6,000 to \$18,000 and also increases the amount that can be claimed to \$4,000 per year;

Doubles the lead paint abatement to \$1,000 for partial abatement and \$3,000 for full abatement;

Raises the statewide cap on the Housing Development Incentive Program from \$10 million to \$57 million for one year before setting the annual cap at \$30 million moving forward;

Raises the annual authorization for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit from \$40 million to \$60 million;

Allows cities and town to adopt a local property tax exemption for renters whose income falls below a certain level set by the community;

Increases the statewide cap on the Dairy Tax Credit from \$6 million to \$8 million to assist local farmers impacted by reductions in milk prices;

Makes public transit fares and certain other expenses eligible for the commuter expenses tax deduction;

Expands the number of occupations eligible for the workforce development tax credit;

Exempts employer student loan payments from being counted as taxable income by the state; and

Increases the maximum amount of alcohol that hard ciders and still wines may contain from 6% of alcohol by weight to 8.5%, which will allow more of these locally produced products to be taxed at a lower rate.

House Bill 4104 must still be approved by the Senate and enacted in both branches before reaching Governor Maura Healey's desk for her review and signature.

For additional information, contact Smola by email at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or call 617-722-2100.



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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Sept. 26-Oct. 3, the Ware Police Department responded to 34 miscellaneous calls, 47 administrative calls, 13 traffic violations, 13 emergency 911 calls, three animal calls, two harassments, two thefts/larcenies, four motor vehicle accidents, one fraud, two trespasses, two damages/vandalisms and 24 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Tuesday, Sept. 26
 5:47 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, East Main Street, Report Made
 10:24 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Patient Refusal
 12:56 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Pulaski Street, Services Rendered
 1:27 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pulaski Street, Dispatch Handled
 3:45 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised
 6:40 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Monson Turnpike Road, Services Rendered
 7:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Wednesday, Sept. 27
 7:51 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Church Street, Advised
 4:03 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Palmer Road, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Richard Bruso, 62, Ware
 OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle;

Marked Lanes Violation
 5:18 p.m. Safety Hazard, Monson Turnpike Road, No Action Required

Thursday, Sept. 28
 2:40 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Valley View, Served in Hand
 2:47 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Chestnut Street, Dispatch Handled
 2:55 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Chestnut Street, Dispatch Handled
 4:15 p.m. Structure Fire, Sherwin Street, Extinguished
 6:55 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Maple Street, Dispatch Handled
 8:24 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made

Friday, Sept. 29
 2:51 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
 6:20 p.m. Vehicle Fire, Main Street, Advised

Saturday, Sept. 30
 9:39 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Cherry Street, Services Rendered
 1:21 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Beaver Road, Dispatch Handled
 5:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 7:28 p.m. Well Being, Hillside Village, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Richard D. Waltein, 39, Ware
 Assault with Dangerous Weapon +60
 7:40 p.m. DUI/Impaired, Belchertown Road, Arrest Made

CORRECTION

Steven Anair was mistakenly listed as being arrested for a warrant in last week's police log. We apologize for the error.

Arrest: Kimberly J. Dulak, 49, Ware
 OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Alcohol in Motor Vehicle, Possess Open Container of
 9:17 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cherry Street, Investigated

Sunday, Oct. 1
 2:18 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Palmer Road, Report Made
 5:29 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made
 6:18 p.m. Indecency/Lewdness, Palmer Road, Report Made
 7:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued

Monday, Oct. 2
 11:48 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
 1:31 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pleasant Street, Dispatch Handled
 3:15 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pleasant Street, Dispatch Handled

Tuesday, Oct. 3
 4:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 6:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Warren Police Log

During the week of Sept. 3-10, the Warren Police Department responded to 291 building/property checks, 151 community policing, 19 traffic enforcements, two radar assignments, 15 emergency 911 calls, one complaint, one vandalism, 10 burglaries, one property damage, three motor vehicle accidents, two larcenies/thefts, nine animal calls and 33 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Sept. 3
 11:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:45 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Comins Pond Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons: Wichita L. Vo, 45, Worcester
 Speeding; Marijuana, Open Container; License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With
 2:16 p.m. Vandalism, Old Douglas Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 6:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire, Little Rest Road, Report Filed

Monday, Sept. 4
 1:07 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brook Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:31 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Winthrop Terrace, Report Filed
 8:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons: Jose R. Centeno, 30, Springfield
 License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With, Subsequent Offense; Speeding in Violation

Special Regulation; License Not in Possession

Tuesday, Sept. 5
 7:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 8:38 a.m. Animal Bite, Maple Street, Report Filed
 12:26 p.m. Burglary, North Street, Report Filed
 2:19 p.m. Dizziness, Old Douglas Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Sept. 6
 6:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Warren Road, Written Warning

Thursday, Sept. 7
 12:30 a.m. Larceny/Theft, North Street, Report Filed
 4:57 a.m. Burglary, Reed Street, Report Filed
 5:25 a.m. Burglary, Reed Street, Report Filed
 5:51 a.m. Burglary, Reed Street, Report Filed
 6:03 a.m. Burglary, Comins Pond Road, Report Filed
 6:09 a.m. Burglary, Reed Street, Report Filed
 6:12 a.m. Burglary, Comins Pond Road, Report Filed
 6:56 a.m. Burglary, Reed Street, Report Filed
 7:55 a.m. Burglary, Reed Street, Report Filed
 9:45 a.m. Burglary, Brook Road, Officer Advised
 4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire, Parkview Street, Vehicle Towed

Friday, Sept. 8
 3:37 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:46 a.m. Unconscious/

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

Unresponsive/Syncope, Gilbert Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:27 p.m. Complaint, School Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:18 p.m. Property Damage, Main Street, Officer Advised
 5:23 p.m. Bleeding, Elm Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Saturday, Sept. 9
 7:38 p.m. Noise Violation/Party, Washburn Avenue, Report Filed
 11:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/Fire, Maple Street, Report Filed
 Summons: Natalie J. Jarest, 25, Westfield
 Speeding; OUI-Liquor or .08%; Alcohol in Motor Vehicle, Possess Open Container of; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Seat Belt, Fail Wear

Sunday, Sept. 10
 1:49 p.m. Trauma, Burbank Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 4:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 5 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Cross Street, Citation Issued
 9:05 p.m. Larceny/Theft, Main Street, Report Filed

Post Road Chorus hosts 'Sing, Laugh, Love!' Ladies Night Out

WORCESTER – Women of all ages are invited to join Post Road Chorus for an evening to "Sing, Laugh, Love!" on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Briarwood Auditorium, Briarwood Community Center, 65 Briarwood Circle.

snacks, and a "behind the scenes" view of the Post Road Chorus a cappella four-part harmony sound. Women with a passion for music are encouraged to attend on this special evening to learn about Post Road Chorus.

register and learn more. Post Road Chorus has been an active participant in the Worcester choral arts community for over 35 years. This women's a cappella chorus features full chorus and small ensemble four part harmony with a healthy dose of weekly fun.

Visit www.postroadchorus.org



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Ware River News ~ November 2, 2023

Ware River News will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to dflynn@turley.com or drop off a photo to Ware River News, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
 All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 16, 2023.

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact before to October 10th.

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Sept. 25-Oct. 2, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 58 building/property checks, 43 directed/area patrols, eight traffic controls, 11 emergency 911 calls, 11 radar assignments, five complaints, one investigation, two assist other agencies, three citizen assist, one motor vehicle accident, one harassment, two animal calls and 20 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Sept. 25
 5:35 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:03 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Sept. 26
 3:49 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Services Rendered
 7:26 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Turkey Street,

Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Sept. 27
 1:02 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department, Officer Handled
 3:50 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Barre Road, Verbal Only
 8:26 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Hardwick Road, Negative Contact

Thursday, Sept. 28
 5:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
 11:07 a.m. Harassment, Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department, Transferred to Court
 11:36 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Sept. 30
 4:59 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Moran Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:24 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Services Rendered

3:32 p.m. Investigation, Prospect Street, Spoken To
 6 p.m. Assist Citizen, High Street, Officer Handled
 7:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:16 p.m. 911 Complaint, Broad Street, Unfounded
 11:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Spoken To

Sunday, Oct. 1
 1:40 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered
 11:20 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 12:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Written Warning
 3:07 p.m. 911 Misdial, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled
 4:09 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Out of Town, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 4:43 p.m. Complaint, Ridge Road, Spoken To

Medical services move to new location on campus

PALMER – Baystate Palmer Cardiology, Gastroenterology, and Endocrinology Outpatient Specialty Practices will move to a new location within the hospital effective Sept. 18.

These clinics will move to the former shell space above the Emergency Department, as the first phase of a tiered opening of the Palmer Health & Wellness Center.

Narzeya Johnson, regional health and wellness site administrator for Baystate Health said in a press release, "This new clinical area will support the growth of programs and services that the health system is focusing on. The newly renovated space includes a centralized registration area, a welcoming patient and family waiting room, and state-of-the-art exam rooms."

Dr. Brian Laliberte, chair of Baystate Palmer Cardiology, Dr. Zachry Zichittella, and nurse practitioners Grace LaValley and

Elizabeth Jarry specialize in both invasive and non-invasive cardiology care including the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of cardiovascular diagnoses including hypertension, coronary artery disease, heart failure and valve disease.

Gastroenterologist Dr. Jorge Sotelo cares for patients with a wide range of gastric conditions, such as hepato-biliary disease, reflux, and bowel diseases from initial consultation to chronic management through disease remission.

In addition to Baystate Wing's Endoscopy suite, the Baystate Palmer infusion suite allows for the most up-to-date medication management for our gastroenterology patients.

Endocrinologist Dr. Raju Panta provides a wide range of care for patients including those with diabetes, thyroid/adrenal/pituitary disease, and osteoporosis, and also

provides gender-affirming care.

All the specialists are supported by their expert teams consisting of registered nurses, medical assistants and patient service representatives. Kimberly Galiatsos, clinical nurse manager said, "The same great care and team our community has come to know and depend on will continue to deliver exceptional care in this new space. The new space provides revitalization to our existing clinics while enhancing the patient experience and improving workflow."

For more information or to make an appointment at Baystate Cardiology – Palmer call 413-370-7880, for Baystate Gastroenterology – Palmer call 413-370-7882 and for Baystate Endocrinology – Palmer call 413-370-7881.

For more information about Baystate Wing Hospital visit baystatehealth.org/wing.

Baystate Health to hold free lecture series Oct. 10

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health will hold a free breast health virtual lecture series during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October beginning with "The Mammogram Callback" on

Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 6 p.m. The series continues Monday, Oct. 16, at 6 p.m. with "Lumpectomy vs Mastectomy." The series will end on Monday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m., with "Precision

Medicine in Breast Cancer." All lectures will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Registration is required for each session by visiting: www.baystatehealth.org/breastcancerevents.

St. Paul's holds Blessing of the Animals Oct. 22

PALMER – All are welcome to bring their pet to a special Blessing of the Animals service at St. Paul's Church, 1060 Central St., on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 10 a.m.

This unique church service will feature music, readings and prayers of blessing for the animals.

Pet photography will be offered by John McCarthy of Longleash LLC. Pet Photography of Wilbraham, at 11 a.m. at the church's fellowship hall. A free 4 x 6 photo of pets will be given. Additional prints and gift certificates will also be available.

Bring your pet as they are, or in festive Halloween attire; perhaps even dressed for Christmas for a special Christmas card photo shoot. If your pet is unable to attend, then be sure to bring a photo of your pet to be blessed.

Reverend Steven Sousa of St. Paul's speaks of the importance of being a blessing to the animals

in our lives, "They do not ask for much in life, and just need a warm, safe and sheltered place to live, as well as adequate food, water and exercise. In return they will give you unconditional love, loyalty and companionship. Having a furry friend means you will always have a little living being, waiting patiently for you at home and ready to welcome you with a wagging tail or a purr."

Drinks and refreshments will be served as well as treats for the animals.

About St. Paul's Church

St. Paul's Church has faithfully served the greater Palmer community through various outreach and spiritual avenues since 1937. At its heart is the message of grace, acceptance, and love.

St. Paul's new website is: www.StPaulsPalmer.org.



Submitted Photo

St. Paul's Church will welcome pets to their Blessing of the Animals during the Sunday, Oct. 22 church service.

obituary

Nancy K. Kent, 76

W A R E – Nancy K. (Stockman) Kent, of Ware, died surrounded by family on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, at Baystate Wing Hospital, at the age of 76.



Death notice

Kent, Nancy K. (Stockman)
Died Sept. 30, 2023

Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

She leaves her longtime companion and best friend, Anthony "Tony" Bousquet of Ware; daughters, Christine Kent of Palmer, and Jennifer Trela and her husband Tom of Rutland; her sister, Susan Stockman of Ware; and Tony's children Kim Trzpit and Heather Orszulark, both of Ware and predeceased by Tony Bouquet, Jr. of Ware.

She was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Russell and Bertha (Koski) Stockman.

Nancy worked previously at IGA and as an administrator in the healthcare profession and also the local VFW. She was known for her wonderful cooking and enjoyed entertaining.

Per the request of the family, funeral services will be held privately. Those wishing to make memorial donations may make them to Second Chance Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515, <http://secondchanceanimals.org>.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

Gary Rome welcomed new HCC president, donated \$5,000

HOLYOKE – Gary Rome, owner of Gary Rome Hyundai, hosted the first public reception for George Timmons on Sept. 12, welcoming him to the community as the fifth president of Holyoke Community College.



George Timmons

The reception was held at Rome's Holyoke dealership, following the quarterly meeting of the HCC Foundation Board of Directors, on which Rome and Timmons both sit.

The reception also included the presentation of a \$5,000 donation check from Rome to the HCC Foundation for the benefit of HCC's Thrive Student Resource Center and Food Pantry.

"I am passionate about 'rallying the troops,' not only to support a cause, but to raise awareness for a cause," said Rome in a press release. "So many people have benefited from HCC in our community, and it is important to ensure that all have access to a truly exceptional yet affordable education."

In attendance at the reception were members of the 27-member Foundation Board, including Rome, Board Chair Corey Murphy (president, First American Insurance Agency) and Vice Chair Susan

Goldsmith (president, Marcus Printing). From the HCC Board of Trustees, Chair Bob Gilbert attended along with incoming Vice Chair Vanessa Smith, Ted Hebert, Evan Plotkin, Charlie Epstein, Yolanda Johnson, and student trustee Barney Garcia, of Northampton.

Rome said as a business leader in the community, it was an honor to host Timmons and introduce him at the dealership.

"Together, we can join forces and accomplish great things for the future of HCC," Rome said.

Rome has been a frequent donor, vocal advocate for HCC and a partner for HCC's annual "Together HCC: Drive to Change Lives" 24-hour fundraising campaign.

"Gary's enthusiasm for our annual Together HCC campaign has been amazing," said Amanda Sbriscia, vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the HCC Foundation. "The energy and fun he brings to giving back helps send the message that every gift matters, which is absolutely true. We are fortunate to have his leadership on the HCC Foundation board."

New legislation introduced to help prevent pipeline disasters

WASHINGTON, D.C.

– Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts), chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety and a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, introduced the Penalizing and Improving Prevention of Emergencies Act.

This legislation would close loopholes and lift barriers so the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration can better protect communities from pipeline accidents and disasters and ensure companies are held accountable for wrongdoing.

The introduction falls on the anniversary of the Merrimack Valley gas explosions on Sept. 13, 2018, which resulted in the death of 18-year-old Leonel Rondon, dozens of injuries, damage to more than 100 structures, and thousands of homes left without natural gas service for months.

"It's been five years since the Columbia Gas explosions

devastated the communities of Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover. The Merrimack Valley is still healing. The family of Leonel Rondon is still grieving," said Markey in a press release. "We must continue making progress by delivering stronger protections and allowing our federal regulators to make swift, effective safety standards. Federal regulators should have all the tools they need to hold bad actors accountable-not be held hostage by industry interests." Last month, Markey applauded PHMSA's announcement of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to improve safety requirements for natural gas distribution pipelines.

In 2020, Markey's Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act, which was cosponsored by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) and led by Rep. Lori Trahan (MA-03) and Rep. Seth Moulton (MA-08) in the House, became law and strengthened emergency response and safety standards for natural gas distribution pipelines.

8th annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk is Oct. 15

WARE – The Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force will hold its 8th annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk for all ages will be held at Veterans Park on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 1 p.m.

Please wear purple to show your support. The rain location is inside the Town Hall.

Join the community for a short walk in downtown Ware to show support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. There will be speakers, activities and a raffle.

Proceeds from the first ever raffle will raise funds for the Task Force.

Hardwick Fire hosts 3rd annual First Alarm event Oct. 14

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Fire Department will host its 3rd annual First Alarm benefit event at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Road on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

There will be a burnout

competition, 50/50 raffle, food trucks, music, bonfire and more. A car show for all vehicles will also be held during the event.

The cost to enter a vehicle in the car show is \$10; burnout competition entry is \$10; or you can enter both for just \$15.

Monson Savings Bank donates to Scantic Valley YMCA

MONSON— Monson Savings Bank President and CEO Dan Moriarty recently met with the Scantic Valley YMCA Branch Executive Director Debbie Kelder and YMCA of Greater Springfield President and CEO Dexter Johnson to present them with a \$1,000 donation.

This \$1,000 donation was made because of the Scantic Valley YMCA Branch placing in the top ten vote recipients for the Monson Savings Bank 2023 Community Giving Initiative. Community members voted for their favorite charitable organizations and chose the Scantic Valley YMCA to be a recipient of the donation.

"The relationship with the YMCA and Monson Savings spans many years. We are so happy to continue to offer our support with this most recent donation of \$1,000," said Moriarty. "The Scantic Valley YMCA is our Loan and Operations Center's neighbor and many of our team members take advantage of its close proximity to their office. We know how important this location is to local community members."

The Scantic Valley YMCA is part of the YMCA of Greater Springfield and is located at 45 Post Office Park in Wilbraham.

The location offers various programs and services for youth, teens, families and seniors to support the mind, body and spirit. This includes aquatics, cycling, pickleball, yoga, and a wide variety of exercise programs.

Additionally, childcare assistance and wellness programs are available. Membership to the YMCA allows members to make a positive impact in their life and the lives of others, through health improving activities, by engaging with friends, and giving back to those in need.

To learn more about the Scantic Valley YMCA or to become a member visit: <http://www.springfield.org/family-centers/scantic-valley-y-family-center/>.

"The YMCA is very grateful to have a community partner like Monson Savings Bank," said Johnson. "Donations from our partners give us the ability to better serve the community by offering financial assistance to those in need of childcare or our wellness services. Thank you to those that voted for the Scantic Valley Y and thank you to Monson Savings Bank for your kindness and generosity."

Scantic Valley YMCA Branch Executive Director Debbie Kelder also expressed her gratitude for the community bank.

"The relationship between Monson Savings and Scantic Valley Y is a very special one. For several years we have been located in Post Office Park with the Wilbraham Branch and in the past few years we have been thrilled to have the Loan and Operations Center move into the neighborhood," said Kelder. "I would like to thank them on behalf of our organization for this generous donation."



Submitted Photo

Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President & CEO (left), presented a \$1,000 donation to Dexter Johnson, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield (right), and Debbie Kelder, Executive Director of the Scantic Valley YMCA Branch.

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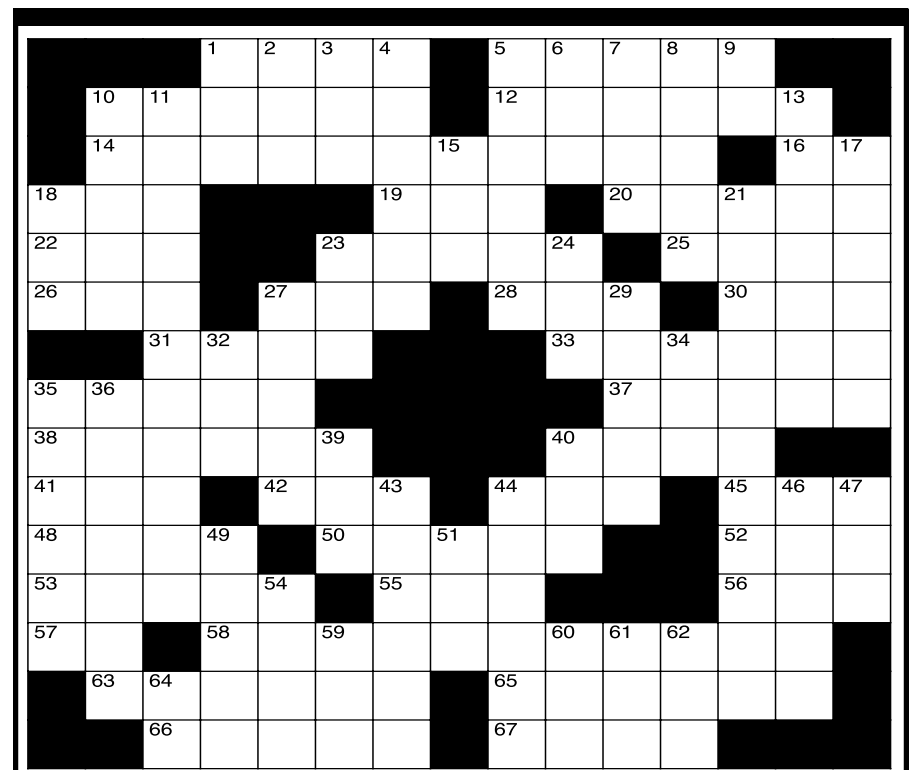
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For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100

Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library



CLUES ACROSS

1. Flat tableland with steep edges
5. Byproduct of fire
10. Talked
12. Unique skill
14. Unembarrassed
16. Where teenagers go
18. Boxing's GOAT
19. Used to anoint
20. Reproductive structure found in rust fungi
22. Auburn great
23. Some are for Christmas
25. Dried, split pulses
26. Self
27. Where to get your mail
28. High schoolers' test
30. Flightless bird
31. Expectorated
33. Practice of misrepresenting the truth

CLUES DOWN

35. Type of patch
37. French river
38. Told on
40. Hillside
41. Peyton's little brother
42. Soviet Socialist Republic
44. Progressive country
45. Witness
48. Brews
50. Yellowish-brown
52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
53. Mexican agave
55. Type of "cast"
56. Popular breakfast food
57. Atomic #52
58. Position north or south of the equator
63. Gadget
65. Another recording
66. Irregular bulges in cell membranes
67. Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

1. Licensed for Wall Street
2. Partner to flow
3. A very large body of water
4. Accumulate on the surface of
5. Central cores of stems
6. Angry
7. Spanish stew: ___ podrida
8. Fastened with a pin
9. On your way: ___ route
10. Soviet labor camp system
11. Enmities
13. B complex vitamin
15. Go quickly
17. Toast
18. A team's best pitcher
21. Philly culinary specialty
23. Small child

24. Unhappy
27. Trims away
29. Full of tears
32. Touch softly
34. Former OSS
35. A person's chest
36. Came from behind
39. Fall back
40. Nellie ___, journalist
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Weather
46. Sports broadcaster
47. Electroencephalograph
49. Phenyl salicylate
51. Web of Things
54. Ship goods as cargo
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. Young female
61. OJ trial judge
62. One's grandmother
64. West Siberian river

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TOWN OF PALMER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Town of Palmer DPW is seeking contractors for snow removal for the upcoming winter season. If interested, contracts are available on the town website under Public Works or at the DPW office. Completed contracts with a copy of the necessary insurance can be delivered to the DPW office located at 1015 Bridge St. Palmer. Rates have been increased for fiscal year 2024 and will be effective on 11/01/23. Please call our office at (413) 283-2615 for our most recent rate schedule.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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The Town of West Brookfield is looking for part-time plow drivers.

This is an on-call position. Must have a valid, clean MA Driver's License and a DOT physical card. Pay rate \$20.41/hour or \$23.38/hour with a Class B License with air brakes. Snow plowing experience is preferred but not required.

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Public notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS23P0600EA

Estate of: Paul A. Gunther
Date of Death: August 8, 2023

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Mary Beth Gunther** of Ware, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Mary Beth Gunther of Ware, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not

required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
10/05/2023

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDDERS
Transportation and Transfer of Liquid Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge
Town of Warren, Massachusetts

Sealed bids for the Transportation and Transfer of Liquid Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge between the periods of November 1, 2023, to October 31, 2026, will be received by mail to the Office of the Town Administrator, 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609 Warren, MA 01083 until October 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time. Proposals must be made upon forms included herein. Proposals must be delivered in a sealed envelope plainly marked for the appropriate bids.

The Proposal Form, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be obtained electronically by emailing Tammy Martin at accountant@warren-ma.gov.

A performance bond with a Surety Company or Sureties satisfactory to the Town will be required of the successful bidder for the complete and faithful performance of the Contract.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid deposit in the form of a Bid Bond, Certified Check, or a Treasurer's or Cashier's Check issued by a responsible Bank or Trust Company, payable to the Town of Warren in the amount of five (5) percent of the minimum total bid (FY24 plus FY25). Said bid deposit shall become the property of the Town

of Warren should the bidder fail to execute the contract and provide a satisfactory bond within fourteen (14) days after he has been officially notified.

Bids are subject to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30.

The award is contingent upon the appropriation of funds. Bidders may be requested to waive the right to the 90-day withdrawal period.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, to waive irregularities and/or informalities in any Proposal, and to make an award in any manner, consistent with law, deemed in the best interest of the Town.

Town of Warren
Board of
Sewer Commissioners
10/5, 10/12/2023

towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description: 1999 FORD F150 PICKUP
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VIN: 2FTRF08W3XCA65183
Name and address of owner: Timothy B Lomme 3 Highland Ave. Monson, MA 01057
By: James M. Regis
Dated: 09/19/2023
09/21, 09/28, 10/05/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of Don Stewart will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 70 Boston Post Rd., Warren, MA at 9:20 am 10/28/23.** The contents of Dennis Craig will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 31 Southbridge Rd., Warren, MA at 9:00 am on 10/28/23.** The contents of Sasha Wallace will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage 167 West St., Ware, MA at 10:00 am on 10/28/23.** Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.
10/05, 10/12/2023

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Pathfinder teacher hosts 30th and final car show

By Dallas Gagnon
Staff Writer
dgagnon@turley.com

PALMER – After 30 years of hosting Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School annual car show, Collision Repair teacher Craig Sankey hosted his final show Sept. 17 and is passing the torch.

“It’s very bittersweet...we’ve met so many wonderful people over the years and lost great people within the community,” said Sankey.

He said that after hosting the show for three decades, he and his crew believe their “time has come,” adding PRVTHS Superintendent Eric Duda “wants the show to continue,” and may form a car show committee in the future.

Jeanine Sankey, wife to Craig, said the show started off as an idea 32 years ago, to help offset the costs for students to participate in the SkillsUSA program.

Proceeds from the event have continued to provide financial support for the Collision Repair students to participate in the SkillsUSA competition as well as non-budgeted expenses such as shop shirts and sweatshirts.

Former Collision Repair adult program student Krista Wilson said Sankey “always puts the students first,” and “is big on community.”

“They’ve done so much over the years,” said Wilson.

Sankey “deserves a lot of kudos,” for all he has done for the students and the show, she said.

In the closing remarks, Jeanine



Bonnie Spaulding, Roger Benoit and Kris Spaulding share a family photo with an award of appreciation from Craig Sankey.

Sankey revealed that with the help of PRVTHS Vocational Director Amy Skowrya, \$4,000 worth of sponsorships were secured in addition to the funds raised from the event.

The show generates money from a \$15 vehicle registration cost, a \$3 general admission fee and optional purchases of raffle tickets.

According to Sankey, this year’s car show was the largest and final showing, with over 320 vehicles in attendance.

“Our first show had 58 cars... My wife and I did everything,” said Sankey.

Cousin to Sankey, Bonnie Spaulding, said she and husband, Kris Spaulding, have supported Sankey with the car show since

1997, starting off as volunteer cooks.

“It went from being extremely stressful [as] cooks, to just showing up and filling in,” said Spaulding.

She added after the first eight years or so, the group went from trying to break registration from 100 cars on the lot, to trying to break 200.

“It’s pretty incredible considering how many [vehicles] showed up,” said Spaulding.

Sankey recognized several volunteers who helped make the show possible over the past three decades, and said he has received “a lot of great support,” from family and friends.

“We’ve had family by our side for 25 years,” said Sankey. “We



Shown from left are Debbie August, Michael Plouffe, Craig Sankey, Jason Bushey, Lauren Sankey, Tom Cote, Jeanine Sankey, Kris Spaulding, Mason Washington, Bonnie Spaulding, Marta Carrey, Glenn Sinon, Jeff Ovitt, Adam Holst and Ron Bushey.

couldn’t do it without [them].” said Sankey.

Daughter Lauren Sankey said that although her father’s retirement from hosting the show is “bittersweet,” it will create more opportunities for the family to enjoy attending shows opposed to organizing them.

“It’s a lot of work,” she said. “It takes up our entire summer, speaking with sponsors, going out to shows...handing out fliers,” said Sankey. “Maybe my dad can restore his 1970 Dodge Dart.”

While Sankey recognized the

top 40 vehicles as chosen by himself and a judging team, he showed appreciation for the people “who make things happen.”

“They say it takes a village; we definitely have a village,” said Sankey.

He recognized friends and family, including Donna and Glenn

Sinon, Bonnie and Kris Spaulding, Tom Cote, Adam Holst, Jason Bushey, Debbie August, Tom Willard, Rick Bushey, Jeanine Sankey and his parents.

“We have had an amazing crew over the last 30 years,” said Sankey.

“We appreciate everything.”



Turley Photos by Dallas Gagnon
George Hollister stands beside his 2019 Ford Mustang Bullitt.



This 1967 Ford Mustang sported a soft, metallic green paint job.



Kelly Silva and Jay Koziol of Ludlow, stand beside Koziol's Plymouth Duster.



Submitted Photo

Holyoke Community College culinary arts professor Warren Leigh has been named “Educator of the Year.”

HCC culinary arts professor named Educator of the Year

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College culinary arts professor Warren Leigh has been named “Educator of the Year” by the Center for the Advancement of Food Service Education, a national industry group.

Leigh, a professional chef and restaurateur who has been teaching at HCC for 15 years, received his award June 21 at the 2023 CAFÉ Leadership Conference in Charleston, South Carolina.

“It’s pretty cool,” said Leigh, who lives in Springfield. “It’s nice to be recognized. It’s humbling.”

Leigh also received honorable mention for CAFÉ’s annual “Community Outreach” award. He was nominated for both by Chef Paul Sorgule, a retired culinary educator and president of Harvest America Ventures, a restaurant consulting and training company.

“Even at a young age, he had a strong inclination towards serving others, and the kitchen drew him in,” said Sorgule. “His professional work and personal life experiences became the stories that brought his classrooms to life, but it is also his unwavering commitment to professional standards, his passion for the craft, and his unique empathy for students trying to figure out where they fit that makes him very special as an educator.”

In receiving the Educator of the Year award, Leigh, co-chair of HCC’s Culinary Arts program, was recognized

for his part in designing the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, the college’s state-of-the-art teaching facility on Race Street that opened in 2018; re-imagining the culinary arts curriculum; creating a line cook training program in collaboration with HCC’s non-credit business and workforce division; and pushing forward on his concept for a mobile kitchen where students could learn food truck operations while also teaching the community about nutrition and healthy eating.

Leigh holds a bachelor’s degree in food service administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a master’s degree in management from the University of Phoenix. He trained extensively as a chef in Germany and Switzerland.

He is the owner, operator and executive chef for Hydrangea Catering & Consulting, and has worked over the years in many capacities at restaurants in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, including The Standish House in Wethersfield, Madeleines in Windsor, and The Eatery in East Windsor, among others.

“As a product of his work myself, I can attest to his superb teaching and knowledge,” said HCC alum Matthew Enos ‘19, now an executive sous chef at Johnny’s Bar and Grille in South Hadley. “Chef Leigh has given me a great steppingstone to launch a career in culinary.”



Turley Photos by Mary Whitelaw

Quabbin football fans proudly cheered for their team, decked out in star-spangled attire at this past Friday’s homecoming football game.

FOOTBALL FANS CHEER ON PANTHER’S AT HOMECOMING

BARRE – The bleachers were filled with Quabbin Regional High School football fans, wearing red, white and blue, at this past Friday’s homecoming football game against Quaboag Regional High School.

Quabbin Regional High School students posed for a photo during this past weekend’s homecoming football game.



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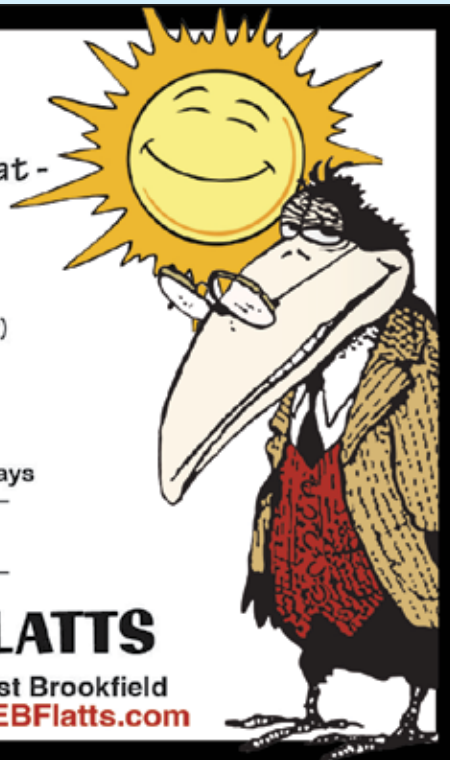
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